

Yeltsin seeks Paris Club membership

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he had insisted at the weekend G-7 summit that Russia be allowed to join the Paris Club of creditor nations, starting with observer status. Just prior to his return from the summit of the world's wealthiest industrialised nations, which ended Sunday in Naples, he underlined the significance of sums owed to Moscow by other former Soviet republics. "As the inheritor of the former Soviet Union, we accepted a debt of 80 billion dollars," he told Russian television. "But at the same time, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States today owe us \$50 billion," Mr. Yeltsin continued, after taking part in G-7 political discussions for the first time, though Russia is not a member. "Who in this situation is the creditor?" he asked. "The Paris Club is a club of creditors. That is why I insisted on our becoming a member... with observer status for the first six months or a year," Mr. Yeltsin also called for the lifting of trade restrictions against Russia, saying if they were removed, Russia would be three billion dollars per year better off. "That is a very sizeable sum. We barely get as much credit in (international) aid," he added.

Jordan Times

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عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Korea talks suspended for funeral

GENEVA (AFP) — North Korea and the United States agreed Sunday to suspend talks on Pyongyang's controversial nuclear programme so the head of the Korean delegation can attend the funeral of the late president Kim Il Sung, a North Korean spokesman said. "The head of the DPRK (North Korea), named as a member of the funeral committee, as well as the members of the delegation, has been called back home to attend the mourning services to be held in Pyongyang," the North Korean capital, the spokesman said in a statement. "In this regard the DPRK delegation has suggested that the current third round of talks be discussed through diplomatic channels in New York. The USA delegation has expressed its understanding and has agreed to this suggestion." The statement followed two hours of talks between the North Korean delegation head Kang Sok-Ju and his U.S. counterpart Robert Gallucci. The discussions were suspended Saturday after the death of Kim North Korea's longtime leader. (See related story below)

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G-7 urges Palestinian aid, talks tough on Iraq, Libya

Naples communique calls for dialogue in Algeria, sees Bosnia war as alarming

NAPLES (Agencies) — The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised countries and Russia on Sunday welcomed the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule deal but acknowledged the need to speed up financial aid to Gaza and Jericho.

"We have welcomed the Israel-Palestine declaration of principles and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement as a first step in its implementation," the chairman of the G-7 summit, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, said in a statement here.

"We recognise the need to speed up the delivery of assistance and create the circumstances for a real improvement of living conditions," he added.

The summit also urged Arab states to make peace with Israel. "Progress on the other bilateral tracks and in the multilateral negotiations is now essential in order to achieve a lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, and a wider process of peace and

cooperation in the whole Middle East/Mediterranean region," Mr. Berlusconi said. "We call upon the Arab League to end their boycott of Israel."

The Group of Seven and Russia stressed the United Nations' role in resolving international conflicts.

"The U.N. has a central role in preventive diplomacy as well as in peacekeeping, peace-making, and post-conflict peace-building," the statement said.

"It is essential that all such activities be fully mandated, effectively planned and organised, and be financed to meet the demands placed on them."

The G-7 pledged to enforce U.N. resolutions against Iraq and Libya.

The statement issued at the end of the summit said: "We reiterate our resolve to enforce full implementation of each and every relevant U.N. Security Council resolution concerning Iraq and Libya until they are complied with."

The G-7 "recall that such implementation would entail the reassessment of sanc-

tions," the statement added. The statement warned of a grave risk of renewed war on a large scale in Bosnia if the warring factions do not accept a big-power peace plan.

It urged the parties to accept the plan by July 19 and pledged to implement tougher sanctions in case of a refusal.

The G-7 leaders urged a dialogue between the Algerian government and non-violent opponents, but at French insistence omitted any reference to the country's main Islamic movement.

"We support the Algerian government's decision to move forward on economic reforms, which must be pursued with determination, while urging Algerian leaders to continue a political dialogue with all elements of Algerian society rejecting violence and terrorism," they said.

Following are the other main conclusions of the communique:

— The G-7 said it was encouraged by evidence of economic recovery. "Inflation is now at the lowest levels in over three decades and the conditions are in place for strong and lasting non-inflationary growth."

— Declaring G-7 unemployment of 24 million an "unacceptable waste," the summit pledged to accelerate reforms to improve education and training, reduce rigidities that add to employment costs, pursue active labour market policies, promote technological innovation and create jobs in new areas such as environment protection.

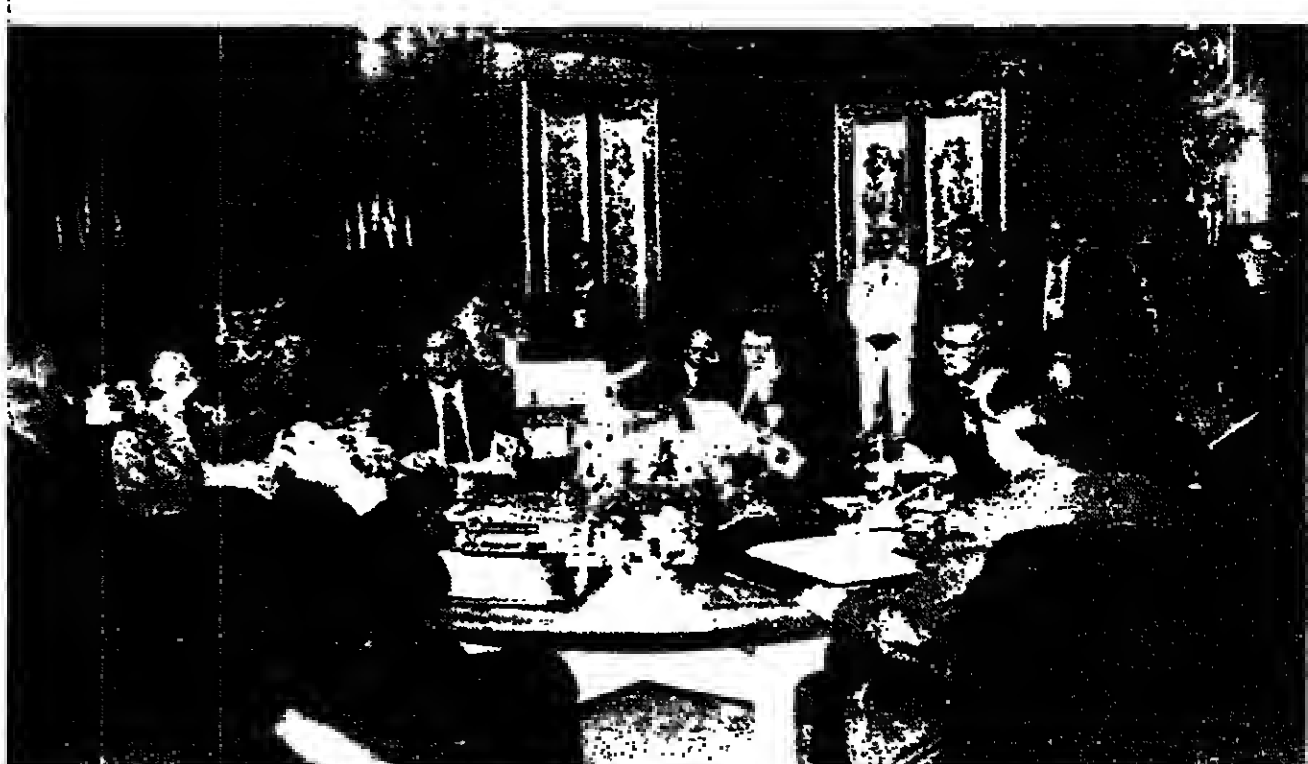
— The G-7 approved \$200 million for an action plan to close the Chernobyl nuclear plant, which it called an urgent priority.

Expressing deep concern about Ukraine's economy, the G-7 urged rapid stabilisation backed by price liberalisation and privatisation. Ukraine could get international financing of \$4 billion over two years if it undertakes genuine reforms.

— G-7 countries urged North Korea to open its nuclear programme to full international inspection and remove suspicions "once and

for all."

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Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (centre) reads a joint communique by the Group of Seven in Naples on Sunday. From left: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, Japanese Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Yohji Kono, EC President Jacques Delors (rear) and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien (AFP photo)

U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, Japanese Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Yohji Kono, EC President Jacques Delors (rear) and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien (AFP photo)

Majali visits south, affirms peace quest

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Sunday Jordan seeks a just, durable and comprehensive peace based on United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy.

In its search for peace, Jordan has been keen on coordination with all Arab parties concerned with the Middle East peace process, Dr. Majali said.

He added that the final solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be fair and comprehensive, even if the pace of progress on the various tracks is different.

Addressing a meeting of the two executive councils of Maan and Tafleh governorates, Dr. Majali said Jordan seeks through its participation in the peace process, to restore its complete rights in water and territory and to ensure that its role is not marginalised and that the refugees problem is solved.

Dr. Majali, who toured Maan and Tafleh governorates, reviewed Jordan's economic situation. The prime minister called for encouraging investments to ensure stability and economic security.

He stressed that overspending on development and infrastructure projects had placed additional burdens on Jordan's economy and had increased Jordan's foreign debt.

Dr. Majali said the latest visit by His Majesty King Hussein to the United States

of America and his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior U.S. officials had contributed to improving bilateral relations and helped Jordan economically, through correcting the balance of trade, providing support for Jordan, relieving Jordan's debt burden and rescheduling or cancelling some of its debt.

Dr. Majali stressed the important role executive councils can play in serving citizens and meeting their needs.

He called for decentralisation of work and delegation of authorities to put an end to bureaucracy and save people's time, effort and money.

The prime minister said the government apparatus is made up of a series of chains linked to each other, noting that the Cabinet is one link and that the prime minister is the focal point between the cabinet and the King.

"At the end of the meeting, specific issues and concerns were discussed. These issues focused on unemployment, training of administrative staff, developing the tourist sector, reallocation of state-owned land to citizens, opening faculties of science and arts, and encouraging investments."

The prime minister was accompanied by Interior Minister Saleh Hamad and Prime Minister's advisor Aktham Qussous.

Vatican, Jordan to name ambassadors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran on Sunday ended a three-day visit to Jordan, saying the Holy See and the Kingdom would soon exchange ambassadors in implementation of their agreement last March to establish diplomatic relations.

Addressing a press conference shortly before his departure for Rome Archbishop Tauran said that the to-be named ambassador will act also as the Vatican's envoy to Iraq and would work towards further bolstering bilateral ties and stimulating dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

The Holy See wants to help solve problems, end injustices and promote the cause of peace; and this could be done through the good offices of the ambassador, Archbishop Tauran said.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Jordan and the Vatican were expected to exchange envoys in September.

Monsignor Tauran, who conveyed to His Majesty King Hussein a verbal message from Pope John Paul II and met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, said that his talks were focused on the issue of peace and the status of the holy city of Jerusalem.

Voicing appreciation to the King and government for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during the visit, Archbishop Tauran said he was impressed with the close cooperation and co-existence between the Christians and Muslims living in the Kingdom.

He said his discussions here covered the question of pursuing inter-faith dialogue to further promote relations between the followers of the two faiths.

He said his talks here convinced him of Jordan's sincere intentions for a lasting peace. Archbishop Tauran said that heads of Muslim and Christian communities he met in Jordan support the Vatican's view that Jerusalem should remain a spiritual centre and a meeting place for all believers in God.

Archbishop Tauran said at the meeting with Dr. Majali that the Vatican supported the Middle East peace process and highly appreciated His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards the establishment of a lasting peace.

Dr. Majali outlined Jordan's position with regard to the peace process, reaffirming the country's stand which considers the Holy City as part of the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war.

Archbishop Tauran was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Israel to propose self-rule 'pockets' rather than towns

ISRAEL WILL propose expanding self-rule only to Palestinian cities in the West Bank at autonomy talks which resume this week in Cairo, Israeli reports said Sunday.

Instead of granting Palestinians control over the entire West Bank, home to 120,000 Jewish settlers, Israel will offer them "self-rule pockets" in major population centres, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth said.

The proposal would have the Jewish settlements and roads leading to them under Israeli control, reducing the possibility of friction between Palestinian authorities and settlers.

Other roads in the West Bank will be patrolled by joint Israeli-Palestinian teams, the newspaper said, noting that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had approved the proposal.

The "self-rule pockets" would be established gradually and on a trial basis, according to the report.

The Gaza Strip and West Bank's Jericho area became autonomous in May under the terms of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed last September. That agreement foresaw self-rule expanding throughout the West Bank but was vague on details and timing.

The reported proposal would fall far short of Palestinians' longstanding demand for effective control of the West Bank and interpretation of the accord as mandating that eventually.

Foreign ministry spokesman Gadi Baitiansky said he could not confirm the report and added that any Israeli proposals would be raised during negotiations and not in the press.

The talks are due to start Monday in Cairo.

An Israeli source who demanded anonymity said the "self-rule pocket" proposal

was raised during preparatory talks for the new round of autonomy negotiations.

Economic Minister Shimon Shetret, asked about the Yedioth report after the weekly cabinet meeting, said only that expansion of autonomy to the rest of the West Bank would most likely "be done gradually at first, in the concentrated Arab population areas, and later on for the rest of the area."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein noted that Israel has already said it would move its troops out of populated Palestinian areas before elections of a Palestinian body to run the autonomy.

It remains unclear, however, when such elections could be held.

Palestinian officials hope to hold balloting this October — and demand a troop withdrawal first.

Mr. Rabin, however, has

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Israel seals off Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army has decided to seal off the autonomous Gaza Strip for 24 hours from early Monday following unrest by Palestinian workers, a military spokesman said Sunday.

The closure from 3:00 (0000 GMT) was ordered by General Matan Vilnay, southern military commander in charge of the Strip, and agreed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Scuffles broke out late Saturday when thousands of Palestinian workers massed at the Erez crossing point into Israel from Gaza. A large number were found to have work permits and were turned back by soldiers, a military spokesman said.

They began throwing stones and other objects at the soldiers, slightly wounding three of them, he said.

The Palestinian police chief for the northern area of the Gaza Strip, Saeb Al Agiz, told AFP he had been informed of the closure.

"The Israelis told us they wanted to close the Gaza Strip to repair the damage which is fairly considerable as stones were thrown at the crossing point," Mr. Agiz said.

He called on Palestinian workers to "get work permits as required under the law to avoid further disturbances."

He added that the Palestinian police had tried to stop the demonstrators "but there were too many of them."

But Mr. Agiz also urged the Israelis to reopen the crossing point "as soon as possible and authorise more Palestinians to work in Israel."

An Israeli military spokesman said the repairs would be carried out in coordination with the Palestinian police.

Under the May 4 autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the Palestinian police force is in charge of maintaining order on the Strip.

Meanwhile, the West Bank town of Hebron remained under curfew and the mayor of the tense city protested the curfew as collective punishment and said city residents have been confined to their

Israel sees King's stand as positive

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Sunday welcomed what it described as His Majesty King Hussein's readiness to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as an important step forward in the peace process.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said the monarch's announcement was "courageous."

"Finally the national interests of two states coincide publicly," Mr. Beilin said in an interview with the daily Maariv.

King Hussein told Parliament Saturday he would meet with Mr. Rabin. He said the meeting was pressed on him by the Clinton administration, which he said promised to ask Congress for a write off of Jordan's \$1 billion debt to the United States.

"I hope a (meeting) happens soon as it will certainly be a very important step forward in the peace process," Mr. Beilin said, without speculation when such a summit would occur.

Mr. Beilin said a summit would be able to solve remaining sticking points in bilateral negotiations, expected to resume July 18 on the

southern Jordanian-Israeli frontier.

That meeting is expected to be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

"Naturally when you meet at such a high level and discuss issues of principle, like how the region will look, and what will be the character of the relations between Israel and Jordan, the most important thing will be how the Palestinian solution is to be integrated in the Israeli-Jordanian solution," Mr. Beilin said.

In September, Jordan and Israel signed a common agenda outlining the principles for a peace treaty and followed it in June with another agenda setting out key issues — mainly border, security and water rights.

"I presume that it won't be impossible," Mr. Beilin said. "If the meeting between me and the Israeli prime minister is a price to change the picture of this country, I will not hesitate at all and consider it a service for my country which is facing threats from all directions," the King told deputies.

Smooth transition seen in N. Korea

SEOUL (Agencies) — Secretive North Korea has taken apparent steps to finalise the succession to Kim Il-Sung amid signs the "great leader's" death would not trigger an immediate power struggle, analysts in Seoul said on Sunday.

Few Korea watchers express doubt Kim Jong-Il, the late president's eldest son, will succeed as expected but many predict problems for the younger Kim, who will inherit an increasingly ailing economy.

In a possible move to finalise succession swiftly after the elder Kim's death on Friday, North Korea's Communist Party urgently ordered members of its central committee and the Supreme People's Assembly to report to Pyongyang, according to South Korean intelligence.

The instruction could lead to the rapid selection of a new president and party chief, a spokesman for the Agency for National Security Planning in Seoul said.

North Korean broadcasts for the first time Sunday evening referred to Kim Jong-Il as "great leader."

South Korean official radio monitors said Kim Jong-Il, 52, has

King cables condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to Field Marshal Kim Jong Il, son of the late North Korean President Kim Il Sung, expressing heartfelt condolences over the passing of the president.

"I am sending to Your Excellency my heartfelt and sincere condolences over the passing of your father, the late friend Kim Il Sung, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The Jordanian people and government share with me the feelings of grief and sorrow over the demise of the late president, who dedicated his life to serve the causes of his own nation."

The King voiced hope that the Korean people will further the mission of the late president.

hitherto been called "dear leader," and the title of "great leader" had been exclusively reserved for his father.

The monitors here said it

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Businesses are booming in Gaza

By Arieh O' Sullivan
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — Yasser Arafat's brief visit to the Palestinian self-rule areas last week did little to set a government in motion, but business is booming.

Seven weeks after the Israeli withdrawal, apartment buildings are going up and stores remain open late into the night. People are more relaxed, but still worry about what lies ahead.

Where a platoon of Israeli soldiers manned a market lookout post, women now dry sunflower seeds. Traffic flows down streets formerly barricaded. The bite of teargas is no longer in the air.

"I've suffered, I've been in prison. Now it's time to be compensated," said Imad Handuk, who is building a nine-story block of beachfront apartments for the expected influx of Palestinian officials and foreign businessmen. "So what if we make a buck building the homeland?"

Mr. Handuk said a minister of the Palestinian authority, the new government body, already had inquired about one of the apartments. They will cost \$60,000, a fortune in a place with an average annual income of \$700.

Mr. Arafat's five-day visit seems to have exhausted everyone. The Palestinian leader kept his usual insomnia hours, with meetings and meals lasting

until around 4 a.m. With the new status his visit bestowed, Palestinian authority ministers now ask that appointments be made 24 hours in advance.

When the Israelis were here, people who wanted crimes solved turned to activists of political factions. Some people foresaw violence lawlessness once the Israelis pulled out, but their fears have not been realized.

The thousands of Palestinian police get involved in the smallest disputes. They were even called in to halt rampant cheating on school exams. Traffic cops keep order at once-chaotic intersections. Police commanders have said they will be ruthless in cracking down on revenge killings.

Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Awad has nothing but praise for the police. Five hours after he reported his van stolen, police returned it and put the thief in jail.

Some lawyers are concerned, however, that the police may be overly zealous. There have been reports of at least one politically motivated arrest and a death under interrogation.

Islam's hold appears to be slipping. Militants still challenge the peace accord by attacking Israelis — two were killed last week — but the usual Friday crowd of 10,000 at the Palestine Mosque in Gaza has dwindled to 3,000.

The beach was largely off-limits during the



SETTLERS PROTEST: A right-wing Israeli settler is arrested by policemen during a demonstration held in front of the Israeli prime minister's house on Saturday as

hundreds of them protest against the peace process (AP photo)

occupation because of Israeli patrols. Now some women even go to seaside restaurants without the usual male chaperones, although they still are not permitted to swim.

Mr. Arafat has yet to pronounce his vision of the future. No one knows how self-rule will develop or what will be done to provide jobs and an escape from refugee shantytowns. The unemployment rate is 40 per cent.

"He came apparently with empty pockets, both in financial terms and political terms," said Saleh Abdul Shafi, a Gaza economist.

Most of the 800,000 Gazans are refugees from the coastal plain of what is now Israel. If they are to give up their hope of returning, they expect better lives in exchange.

Mr. Arafat blamed the lack of government services on the lack of international aid. Donors say the millions of dollars needed to start are available, but that the PLO has no acceptable mechanism to handle the money.

Gaza has no post office. Sewage still flows in unpaved streets past huge piles of rotting garbage. An attempt to clean up

for Mr. Arafat's visit accomplished little. U.N. relief workers offered equipment to haul the garbage away, but officials never got the effort organized.

Palestinian authority offices are in the compound formerly used by the Israeli military government. Freshly painted signs identify the ministries of agriculture, health, development, archaeology, justice, housing and religious affairs.

The most popular office issues the more than 20,000 permits for jobs in Israel, most of them in construction and agriculture. Those

who obtain permits now must get through both Palestinian and Israeli clearing procedures, not just the occupation authority as before.

Mohammad Yassin accepted less than half the \$40 a day he earns in Israel to help build a five-story block of inexpensive apartments being put up by the Palestinian Housing Council.

"Wherever I build, I feel like I'm building my own state," he said. "In Israel, we felt we were working for our enemy. I hope everything I built for them falls apart."

Fear for democracy dampens hope of end to extremism in Egypt

By Khaled Dawoud
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Once again, government-owned newspapers are proclaiming that extremism in Egypt is over. The use of force to quell radicals has sharply reduced extremist violence.

But many Egyptians wonder if the supposed victory over extremism will slow democratic reforms the government has promised. They ask whether the government, apparently satisfied with its crackdown, will use similar tactics against other forms of dissent.

Since coming to power in 1981, President Hosni Mubarak has repeatedly expressed a commitment to democracy but made little progress in giving people a real say. Egypt has 13 political parties, almost none with wide public support. A large army, security apparatus and bureaucracy makes the government the primary influence in Egyptian society.

Historically, the government has depended mainly on force to stop those it sees as threats to its stability.

"The government now is not under the same pressure of extremism as before. Therefore, we expected it to be more willing to accept democratic reform," said Bahayeddin Hassan, director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. "What happened was the contrary."

Riot police rained tear-gas bombs on the lawyers' syndicate headquarters in May as attorneys protested the death of a colleague in police custody.

Lawyers were beaten with

truncheons and dragged away. Some were held more than five weeks, despite domestic and international appeals. The last nine were freed June 27.

"Using security measures alone to deal with political problems doesn't solve anything," Mr. Hassan said. "The alternative is to encourage more democracy."

From the government's perspective, however, force seems to be working.

Since January, 104 people have been killed — 54 extremists, 39 policemen, 10 bystanders and a German tourist — but most of them died in the first four months. Since April 30, the toll is four policemen and five extremists.

Attacks on banks, tourist trains, Coptic Christians and senior police officers virtually ceased after security agents arrested or killed leading members of the extreme Al Gama'a Al Islamiya, the Islamic Group, and Jihad, or holy war. Leaflets threatening a bloody campaign of vengeance came to nothing. Faxed threats ended in late April.

Since the confrontation began in 1992, the government has periodically declared an end to extremism, then lost credibility when attacks increased. The recent claims of success are the first since the interior minister announced in early February that his forces were taking the initiative.

The government also set its media machine to work portraying extremists as thugs and hypocrites who use religion to achieve political and personal goals.

Critics saw some of the tactics as obstacles to democracy, efforts to justify increased control of political life by the need to fight extremism.

First, the government took on the 66-year-old Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest and best-established Islamic group, which had been tolerated despite being technically illegal.

Because the Brotherhood had taken over most universities and professional associations in the past 15 years, the government enacted laws to control institutional elections.

Mr. Mubarak might have left the Brotherhood alone if it had supported him against extremists, but it was "largely ambiguous, offering justifications and blaming security instead of condemning terrorism," said Mesbah Qutb, a leftist writer.

Drawing fire from the opposition are two new laws that give the government authority to appoint village mayors and deans of university colleges, both previously elected.

Opposition figures also criticized a "national dialogue conference." Mr. Mubarak initiated to discuss political, economic and social strategies. They had hopes for it until Mr. Mubarak said in his opening speech that the 250 members, chosen by him, would merely issue recommendations for the government to consider "according to Egypt's interests."

None of the delegates are from the Muslim Brotherhood, which says it wants a strict Islamic state created without violence.

Djerejian: Self-rule must contain violence

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian said Saturday that one of the "most pressing challenges" before the Palestinian authority will be controlling opponents of the autonomy accord and preventing attacks on Israelis.

The outgoing ambassador spoke two days after a 17-year-old settler girl was killed in a drive-by shooting and an Israeli soldier was found shot and stabbed to death, both incidents in the West Bank. Israel blames the slayings on militants opposed to the peace agreement.

"It is up to the new Palestinian authority and the Palestinian police to fulfill their own responsibility... so that those who are opposed to the peace process, those who advocate violence and terrorism are controlled,"

Mr. Djerejian said. "That is one of the most pressing challenges for the new Palestinian authority, to control terrorism within the Palestinian community," he added on Israel Radio.

Mr. Djerejian also urged Israelis to keep the attacks in perspective, that "despite the terrorist incidents on the ground, the (peace) process itself is moving forward."

Since the shooting of the Jewish settler outside the Kiryat Arba settlement Thursday, the nearby Palestinian city of Hebron has been under curfew, confining the city's 80,000 residents to their homes.

Hebron has been a volatile area since the February slaying of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at a city mosque by a Jewish settler. The army said Saturday that the curfew was indefi-

nite. The Hebron international observer force posted in the city after the mosque massacre expressed its condolences over the settler's death and hoped it would not lead to further violence.

The Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) will try to avoid this tragic and unnecessary killing will result in a setback of the normalization process," a statement from TIPH's spokesman Bjorn Soerensen said.

Despite the violence, Israelis and Palestinians continued meeting to discuss upgrading coordination on daily problems.

In Gaza Saturday, the former Israeli commander of the area, Doron Almog, met with Palestinian police commanders to discuss coordination on security problems.

PLO poem bids farewell to Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — As another chapter of Palestinian history comes to an end, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders are spending their last few hours of exile composing goodbye and thank you notes to their Tunisian hosts of 12 years — in verse.

Prominent Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish reduced his audience to tears when he recited the following lines in a Tunis theatre recently:

"In a moment, the Palestinians will be moving from the end of the visit to the beginning of the return... from journeys by sea to the first foot on land."

"But the emotional question is how to recover from our love for Tunis which flows through our spirit," wrote Mr. Darwish, once a member of the PLO's Execu-

tive Committee.

"Here in Tunisia we saw friendship, tenderness and support we had never seen anywhere else... we love you, oh Tunisia, more than we ever knew," he went on.

"Should we say thank you? We never heard lovers say thank you to themselves... but thank you, Tunisia, take care of yourself and we shall meet again tomorrow on ground of your sister Palestine."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will move his headquarters from Tunis to the self-rule areas of Jericho and Gaza on Monday after a send-off which Tunisian officials say will befit a head of state.

Mr. Arafat and his guerrillas came to Tunisia after they were forced out of Lebanon following the 1982 Israeli in-

vasion.

"The meal of one martyr is more than enough for two... the glory of Tunisia is more than enough for all Arabs," wrote Samih Al Kassem, another prominent Palestinian poet.

Not only poets, but politicians and former guerrillas are turning madrid ahead of their departure.

Sakhr Abu Nizar, member of the military establishment of the PLO's mainstream Fateh movement, is among them.

"Of my love for Tunisia I say lovers may forget but I never shall," wrote Mr. Abu Nizar.

Another Fateh member, Ouhman Abu Ghariba, penned these words of farewell: "Tunisia, you are engraved in my heart forever."

Farhats enlist Clark's support in Kuwait case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ramsey Clark, a former attorney general of the United States, is leading efforts to internationalise the case of a Lebanese family whose members suffered in the hands of Kuwaitis immediately after the end of the Gulf war of 1991, a member of the family said Sunday.

Naim Farhat, whose father Ismail and brother Osama were killed and sister Naimat was raped and shot in the head by a Kuwaiti intelligence officer, said Mr. Clark had enlisted the help of a team of international lawyers to raise the case in the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

A Kuwaiti court tried the ex-officer, Jaber Al Omairi, and convicted him of the murders of Ismail and Osama Farhat and the attempted murder of Naimat Farhat, but cleared him of the rape charge. He was sentenced to life in prison.

An appeals court reduced the sentence to 15 years in a ruling in May in a move that drew criticism from international legal circles and human rights organisations.

Naim Farhat, who lives in the U.S., has been pressing a campaign against the Kuwaiti government saying the murder of his father and brother and the attack on his sister were ordered by the Kuwaiti regime.

"Justice was ridiculed," Mr. Farhat said of the court rulings, pointing out that the accused was cleared of the rape charge and he was given only life sentence instead of the death penalty.

Mr. Farhat said he did not favour capital punishment, but the fact that the court did not band down the death penalty to the accused was unjust.

In a press conference in London in June, George Halloway, a Labour member of the British Parliament,

named the Kuwaiti government as having given the order for the attack on the Farhats in Kuwait on March 2.

Naimat Farhat and Naim Farhat also appeared in the British House of Commons on June 16 to recount the ordeal of the family.

The Farhats are planning to file a civil claim in Kuwait, but Mr. Farhat said, judging from the earlier court ruling, it would be a hopeless effort.

"The court procedures were a sham aimed at protecting those who ordered the murder of my family," said Mr. Farhat. "I am not going to rest until justice is done to my family which suffered untold suffering for no justifiable reason."

Mr. Farhat is also enraged that the court ignored his family's quest for damages in the case, particularly that it spent tens of thousands of dollars in treating Ms. Farhat who suffered severe head injuries and is now partially paralysed.

A U.S. court ordered the home owned by Mr. Farhat to be seized and sold to settle the bills of the hospital which treated Ms. Farhat. The family managed to save the house by "borrowing money" to settle the bills to the hospital, Mr. Farhat said.

"I am determined to take this case to the end of the world," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times over the phone from San Jose, California. "They (the Kuwaiti government) are going to hear of this case for the rest of their lives."

Mr. Farhat said his continued campaign in the U.S. scene had attracted the attention of Mr. Clark and several associations of international lawyers. "Now we are trying to get the case to the International Court of Justice," Mr. Farhat said. "The cases of non-Kuwaitis who suffered in the hands of Kuwaitis after the Gulf war are no different from the plight of the Bosnian Muslim."

Clinton sees need to address Algerian opposition concerns

NAPLES (R) — President Clinton on Saturday condemned extremism in Algeria but stressed the need to recognise "legitimate concerns" of opposition forces in the country.

At a news conference at the Group of Seven industrialised nations' summit, he rejected the suggestion that he was reluctant to condemn violence in Algeria, where Muslim fundamentalists are fighting to overthrow a hard-line, army-backed government in the former French territory.

"I don't think we've been reluctant at all to condemn Islamic terrorism in Algeria or anywhere else. We deplore it and we condemn it," he insisted.

"What we have sought to do in Algeria is to support a process which would enable the government to successfully govern and to limit terrorism while recognising other legitimate concerns of the opposition in the country," Mr. Clinton said.

The G-7 plans to call for political dialogue in Algeria but in language that masks differences between France and some of its partners on the role of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), host nation Italy said on Saturday.

G-7 foreign ministers on Saturday morning discussed civil strife in Algeria, thrust onto the agenda by the killing

in Algeria of seven Italian merchant seamen on the eve of the July 8-10 Naples gathering.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said after the session that a passage on Algeria, and condemnation of "terrorism in all its forms," would be contained in a summit leaders' political statement due to be issued on Sunday.

Two of the main protagonists, the United States and France, are at odds over how to deal with the problem.

"There are those such as France which believe that the Algerian government is doing everything it can to restore order to the economy and that this can lead to stability," Mr. Martino told reporters.

"Then there is the less optimistic position of those who believe that unless you develop an effective dialogue with the other side you are heading for a potential explosion."

"The final declaration accepts that second position, at least in part, because it calls for dialogue," Mr. Martino said.

Diplomatic sources said the language was likely to call for "a continuation of dialogue with those who renounce terrorism and violence" in Algeria without naming the FIS. It would also state G-7 support for Algeria's economic reforms.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00... Fit Et Heroic
17:10... Beasunair
17:30... Musiques Sans Frontiers
18:30... News in French
18:45... The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... The Nanny
21:00... Jordanique
21:10... Climate Change: Compilation
22:00... News in English
22:30... G.P.

PRAYER TIMES

03:59... Fajr
05:33... (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41... Dhuhr
16:21... Asr
19:49... Maghrob
21:23... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 677440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 20 / 31

Aqaba 25 / 38

Dead Sea 16 / 33

Jordan Valley 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 39 Humidity

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286

Dr. Walid Masri 675485

Dr. Mohammad Omran 612232

Dr. Moujib Masrah 624329

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordown pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shimoon pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

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Shimoon pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 89390

Police 192 011111 637111

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 89390

Public Security Department 630321

Price Complaints 603800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints

Queen to chair NGO workshop on population and development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a workshop for Jordanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on population and development will start today, according to an NHF statement.

The workshop, which is organised by Nour Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with the World Bank and other national organisations concerned with population issues in Jordan, will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The workshop is in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held in Cairo in September. The Cairo conference will be a

follow-up to the Mexico and Bucharest population conferences held in 1984 and 1974.

According to the statement, the workshop will focus on ways to strengthen the role played by NGOs in the coming Cairo conference and on the exchange of expertise among NGOs in Jordan to produce a more effective strategy for the conference.

Participants in the five-session workshop will discuss four main issues which will be proposed during the Cairo event. These issues are: the interaction between variables pertaining to population programme and policies, economic and social development and communication, the relationship between population, development and the

environment, and the relationship between the status of women and population variables.

Queen Noor will chair the third session of the workshop which will focus on participatory development, slowing human growth as a key to sustainability, and the role of Arab NGOs in preparation for the Cairo conference.

During the opening ceremony, Queen Noor will distribute awards to the winners of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 1994 Poster Contest. The objective of the contest, entitled "Population, Key to the 21st Century," was to create awareness of the population issues and their impact on the environment.

Government, hotel owners table grievances

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite Jordan's vast wealth of tourist sites and precious antiquities, the Kingdom's tourism facilities are below standards and can only be improved through cooperation between the government and the private sector, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

Speaking to several hotel proprietors on Sunday, Dr. Adwan reiterated the ministry's commitment to assist the private sector in improving the quality and quantity of tourist facilities by providing the necessary infrastructure and regulations.

"We convened here to discuss all hardships involving this important trade and to work on solving them together in order to face up to the challenges that lie ahead of us," said the minister adding that Jordan is about to witness an historic transformation that will affect the country's public and private institutions.

With peace in the region looming on the horizon, the minister urged those present to help Jordan assume

a prominent position in the area's tourism industry and noted that this can only be achieved by adopting pragmatic thinking.

"We are still far from reaching our goals but if we work hand in hand, we can begin to eliminate the barriers preventing us from improving our performance," he said adding that both the government and the private sector have been indifferent for "far too long."

The minister said that global international tourism payments in 1993 reached \$324 billion; the Middle East share was \$5 billion.

Participants at the meeting expressed their dissatisfaction with the ministry's failure to facilitate the hotel industry's projects saying that the Ministry of Finance "makes their job very hard" with its "inflexible approach" to their demands.

"All the Kingdom's institutions try to hit us hard and we have no protection from our ministry," said Nabil Sa'adeh, the owner of Tyche Hotel in Amman.

While hotel proprietors complained of the high taxes on their facilities, Sa'adeh Abdel Qader of the Ministry of Finance said



Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Sunday addresses hotel proprietors at a meeting to discuss tourism industry needs

that hotel owners were exempt from sales tax in accordance to regulations exempting investment encouragement projects from taxation.

Private sector businesspersons also complained of what they saw as the minimal promotion of Jordan as a tourist attraction. They suggested that the ministry use part of the tax revenues to promote tourism to Jordan.

"The tourism ministry should tackle such matters and act as our leader," said Mr. Sa'adeh noting that the Finance Ministry should be convinced that its revenues

will double if it offered the private sector more assistance in improving tourism facilities.

Despite some proprietors' discontent with the recent reclassification of some Aqaba hotels last month, Dr. Adwan stressed his conviction that the measure was necessary to encourage hotel owners to improve the quality of service and facilities at their hotels. He added that the measure was intended to safeguard the credibility of the hospitality industry in the Kingdom.

Tareef Tabba, owner of the three-star Amman International Hotel, said that

proprietors have had "tens of meetings" with Dr. Adwan.

He added that the ministry "has to prove its commitment" to helping the private sector by strengthening its position vis-a-vis other ministers, and that the tourism ministry must be a "true representative" of businesspersons aspiring to raise Jordan's level of the tourism trade.

Mr. Tabba also stressed the importance of local tourism which he described as "non-existent." He said Jordanians "do not know how to have fun or even laugh." "We want Jordanians to be able to sing and clap as well as listen to five news broadcasts a day."

The meeting was concluded by expanding the present tourism coordination committee headed by Michel Nazzari, owner of Amman's Philadelphia Hotel and Aqaba's Holiday Hotel.

The expanded committee now includes Sami Sawalha (Regency Palace Hotel), Abdel Aziz Kabariti (Aqaba's Coral Beach Hotel), Nabil Sa'adeh (Tyche Hotel), Tareef Tabba, (Amman International Hotel), Issam Daqaq (Ambassador Hotel), and Nizar Abidi (Dar-O-Tel).

UNFPA works on 12 projects

Jordan celebrates World Population Day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is currently implementing 12 different projects in Jordan in cooperation with the health ministry and other government departments, according to Dir'az Alkhas, head of the Programmes Department at the UNFPA office in Amman.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of World Population Day (today), Mr. Alkhas said that his office has allocated \$5 million for these projects, which include among other things, preparations for and contributing to the general census to be conducted in November by the National Population Commission (NPC).

The UNFPA office, which started its services here in the early 1970s, said Dr. Alkhas aims at helping the country implement projects related to health, family planning and developing women's activities.

According to Lina Obeidat, Mr. Alkhas's deputy, women's programmes are being implemented in cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund for Social

Development (QAF).

Ms. Obeidat, who addressed the conference, said the UNFPA office in Amman will soon begin a project designed to help Jordanian women present their case at the Fourth World's Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

The press conference was opened by Rafik Shukor, deputy U.N. resident representative in Jordan and UNFPA representative in Jordan, who said this year UNFPA focuses on spreading awareness about socio-economic and environmental development.

At the same time, UNFPA is intensifying efforts at the national, regional and international levels to confront the challenges resulting from the acceleration in population growth, said Mr. Shukor.

The present world population is estimated at 5.7 billion and is expected to increase by one billion by the end of the century, Mr. Shukor said.

He added that the significant growth in population would inevitably increase pressure on social and other basic services, inflate the number of residents in urban regions and cause considerable increases in

energy consumption.

He said such developments would result in a further draining of natural resources, deterioration of the environment and an increase in poverty.

At the press conference Mr. Shukor read a World Population Day message from Nafis Sadik, executive director of UNFPA, who said "On World Population Day we celebrate individual women and men and the family as the foundation of peace and stability. It is a day to celebrate our richly varied cultures and traditions and to recognise what we need to do to make the future secure for the generations to come," said Dr. Sadik.

She said that in September the International Conference on Population and Development will meet in an atmosphere of consensus on the vital importance of population issues to development.

The conference programme, she added, recognises individual choice as the keystone that balances population and resources, and its focus will be on improving the quality of life in a manner that fosters sustainable development with a greater equity.

RSS to inspect NRA rigs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Sunday signed an agreement by which RSS will inspect the oil drilling rigs which NRA is using.

According to the agreement, RSS Mechanical Design and Technology Centre will conduct X-ray and gamma-ray industrial radiography, ultrasonic, magnetic particles, and liquid penetrant inspections to detect cracks in the drilling rig structures.

This agreement constitutes the cornerstone in preventive maintenance in Jordan which is based on modern technology to ensure that the struc-

ture is surface defect-free, said an RSS statement.

The proposed maintenance will effectively increase the operational life-time of these rigs as well as preserve the life of workers and vital equipment, according to the RSS.

The NRA earlier depended on foreign companies and expertise in conducting non-destructive inspections of drilling rig structures.

Based on this agreement, RSS will conduct these inspections and control the work of these rigs thus ensuring self-dependence and bolstering national economy by saving foreign currency, said the statement.

Germany offers equipment to ministry of education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Charge d'Affaires at the German embassy Michael Bock Sunday presented the Ministry of Education with equipment for the production of school laboratory instruments and said Germany would continue to provide aid to Jordan to help it develop its educational system.

Addressing a special ceremony for the presentation, Mr. Bock said Jordanian skill in utilising modern equipment encourages Germany to continue to supply the country with materials that contrib-

ute towards its development.

The Ministry of Education had set up a special unit in 1987 to produce instruments that could be used at school laboratories, and the German government has been supplying equipment and expertise for its work.

Thanking Germany for its help, Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said the instruments produced by the unit are needed to promote laboratory activities at the basic educational level.

Women's union chooses name change over merger

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to a Ministry of Social Development request to either merge with another women's association or change its name, the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) has opted for a name change, albeit small.

The union's new name, effective June 28, is the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU).

According to JWU President Asma Khader, the name change is accompanied by amendments to the union's by-laws "in order to cope with the democratic advancement and women's status in the Kingdom."

During a press conference Sunday held at JWU headquarters, Ms. Khader said the union also plans to expand its membership by easing membership eligibility rules and maintaining its JD2 annual fee in order to enable women from all sectors to join.

"We hope that in the near future we will enlarge the union to more than 10,000 members from the current roster of 6,000 women," Ms. Khader said.

She added that the door will also be open to men, organisations and institutes that support the union.

Last April the union rejected the Ministry of Social



Asma Khader

Development's demand that it merge with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW).

JWU members told the Jordan Times last April that "the Ministry of Social Development had no authority over them, particularly as the union was registered under the Ministry of Interior, which is the governing authority of such organisations."

On April 10, the JWU administration held a meeting in which they changed the union's name.

On June 28, Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad approved the new name and the changes to the JWU by-laws.

The new name will also help "eliminate confusion between our union and the GFJW," Ms. Khader said. Established in 1974, the

union has branches and centres in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Ramtha and other rural areas.

Most of its centres conduct courses for and train women. The union also provides legal advice to women as part of its stated objective to defend those rights.

According to Ms. Khader, the union recently conducted 10 literacy courses attended by more than 1,000 women in the rural areas. She said the JWU is ready to conduct similar courses if 50 or more women express an interest.

Ms. Khader announced that the union intends to launch a workshop on crimes of honour in Jordan.

"We have noticed an increase in the numbers of reported crimes of honour, so we want to study this issue deeply to find ways to protect innocent women," Ms. Khader, a lawyer, said.

The JWU will also embark on conducting skilled labour training programmes for women to learn trades that were predominantly performed by men.

"We plan to conduct vocational training for women in our centres to teach them how to perform certain jobs that might be useful to them in their homes and that could save them time, money and energy," Ms. Khader said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Zayad family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of condolences to the family of the Tawfiq Zayad over the death of the famous Palestinian poet. Mr. Zayad was killed in a road accident near Jericho last week.

Forest workshop to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first workshop on "Training in Participatory Management of

Forest and Rangelands" will be held at Amman Hotel, Amman today. The workshop is organised by the Department of Forests and Afforestation of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The 19 district forest officers, heads of divisions of the Department of Forests and Afforestation, 10 national and three international resources personnel will attend this workshop, which will be followed, later, by several workshops on this theme in the districts themselves.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

★ Italian film entitled "Cinema Paradiso" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

★ Piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 pm.

LECTURES

★ Lecture entitled "Only the Masters Changed" by Dr. Ghazi Bishah (focusing on the Late Byzantine-Early Islamic transition as evidenced in Roman Street excavations at Madaba) at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

★ Seminar in Arabic entitled "The Jordanian-Israeli Agreement — Analysis and Dimensions" by Mr. Tareq Masarweh and Dr. Mohammad Al Haj at the Islamic Action Front headquarters, Amman-Zarqa highway at 6:30 pm.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Opening of an exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shamsan at Darat Al Founn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwailbeh at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 642351).

★ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lwailbeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).

★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheima (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by plastic artist Kheiri Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).

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Full cut for a comfortable fit

Hanes

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Alahlia - Abela Superstore

U.N to renew Bosnia truce informally; fighting continues

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations was expected to announce an informal renewal of a Bosnia-wide ceasefire Sunday, while more fighting between Serbs and Muslims was reported from battlefronts across the republic.

In Naples, leaders of the Group of Seven industrial nations and Russia were poised to issue a warning of the grave risk of renewed large-scale war in Bosnia if the warring parties do not sign up for the latest international peace plan.

While the Bosnian Serbs have agreed to extend for another month a ceasefire that expired at noon Sunday, the Muslim-Croat federation has not fully backed the plan.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi was back at his headquarters in Zagreb, from where U.N. and Bosnian government sources said they expected him to announce an informal extension of the truce.

Mr. Akashi was likely to read a statement saying that both parties had expressed a desire to extend the agreement. The statement would list several of the warring parties' other concerns but would not entail any signed agreement.

Bosnia's Muslim and Croat-backed government agreed a truce with their rebel Serb adversaries on June 8 in Geneva that went into effect two days later.

The agreement was intended to bridge the gap between fighting in Bosnia and a comprehensive peace plan finally unveiled by five major powers last week.

The warring Serb and Muslim factions have been given until July 19 to respond to the peace plan, which roughly divides Bosnia equally between them.

A draft statement seen by Reuters as leaders of the Group of Seven resumed their

summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged the parties to accept the plan and pledged to implement tougher sanctions if they refused.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd would go to Belgrade and Pale, the Bosnian Serbs' "capital", on Tuesday and Wednesday to hammer home the message.

"We strongly believe the parties to the Bosnian conflict should accept the plan presented to them," the draft statement said. "If the opportunity is not seized, there is a grave risk of renewed war on a large scale."

The Muslims have indicated they are ready to accept the peace plan, but the Serbs have been more reserved.

Mr. Akashi's efforts to extend the truce were frustrated by poor weather in Bosnia Saturday that forced cancellation of a meeting with government representatives.

U.N. and government sources said Mr. Akashi's statement on the informal extension of the truce would include mention of ethnic cleansing by Serb forces in Banja Luka, a concern of the government side, and the failure to release prisoners of war as the first truce envisioned, a specific complaint of the Serbs.

The Serbs agreed Friday to extend the ceasefire but Mr. Akashi reached only partial agreement with the Muslim-Croat alliance at an earlier meeting.

The United Nations meanwhile reported continued fighting in north central Bosnia with clashes between Serb and Muslim forces overnight and Sunday morning.

There was also fighting in the northwestern Bijack pocket, where Muslims are surrounded by Serbs.



Japanese astronaut Chiaki Mukai (right) Rick Heib works on an experiment (AFP photo)

Shuttle's aquatic studies bear fruit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AFP) — News and fish quickly complied with NASA's scientific plans, giving scientists aboard the space shuttle Columbia new subjects to study Saturday.

Less than a day into the shuttle's two-week laboratory mission, five newly laid eggs were spotted by Japan's first woman to travel in space, Chiaki Mukai.

"Thank you for your good work," the president of the Japanese Space Agency (NASDA), Masato Yamano, told Ms. Mukai through the mission operations facility in Huntsville, Alabama. "I hope your work will continue to go smoothly."

"We're very happy," said Japanese project scientist Shunji Nagaoaka.

The aquatic studies should help scientists gain more information about gravity's effects on the animals' life cycles, and may shed light on some aspects of human development.

The shuttle roared into space Friday as scheduled at 12:43 p.m. (1643 GMT) for a mission due to last 13 days, 17 hours and 56 minutes — one of the NASA's longest missions. Columbia's 17th flight marks the 63rd shuttle mission for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

It is to include microgravity experiments, taking advantage of the nearly gravity-free conditions in orbit, with the second International Microgravity Laboratory (IML-2) in its cargo bay. Thirteen of the 19 experiment facilities had been activated as of late Saturday, mission control reported.

The laboratory will play host to 80 experiments sent up by 15 countries and six space agencies, among them NASA, the Japanese NASDA, Europe's ESA, the French CNRS, the German DARA and Canada's CSA.

Thousands of specimens including goldfish, flies, jellyfish, tadpoles and baby sea urchins were loaded onto the

Parents abandon children, head for casino

MELBOURNE (R) — So enthralled by a new casino in their midst were some Melbourne parents that they abandoned their children this weekend. Police said four incidents occurred in which parents left a total of 10 children locked in parked cars or wandering around the casino foyer before police or security staff collected them.

Police found one three-year-old boy who, waking to find himself alone and locked in the dark car, had become so distressed he had vomited on himself. Gambling has been severely restricted in the state of Victoria until last month when, following the long-standing policy of other states, Victoria allowed a single casino to open in the centre of its capital, Melbourne. Residents used to travel interstate merely to use slot machines. Police said the Victorian Community Services Department was considering whether to charge the parents, because of the danger of leaving children alone in the city at night.

Woman divorces serial killer

YORK, England (AP) — The wife of a serial killer known as the "Yorkshire Ripper" has divorced him. Sonia Sutcliffe was divorced from mass murderer Peter Sutcliffe in April, but details have just emerged in the Yorkshire Post newspaper. Peter Sutcliffe, a truck driver, was jailed for life in 1981 after being convicted in the murders of 13 women and seven attempted murders in a five-year terror spree. The Sutcliffes were married on Aug. 10, 1974, just months before the killings began in Yorkshire, England's largest county located about 180 miles (300 kilometers) north of London. Mr. Sutcliffe's ex-wife has now reverted to her maiden name, Szarma, according to the Press Association news agency. Press Association said that the pair had been separated for five years. After Mr. Sutcliffe was convicted he urged his wife to make a new start but she pledged to remain faithful for at least 10 years and has been a regular visitor to him, the news agency said.

Greece to place anti-jellyfish nets

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek authorities are planning to throw anti-jellyfish nets across the Gulf of Saronikos to stop an invasion by millions of jellyfish badly burning bathers, the minister for tourism said. Dionysios Livanos told Greece's Mega Television Network that the operation would be extremely costly. The jellyfish, a small mauve variety known as "Pelagia Nocturna", have been flooding into the gulf for the past few days.

9 injured in third bull run in Pamplona

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — The score: bulls 9, humans 0. Nine men were slightly injured Saturday dashing through the narrow streets of Pamplona with a herd of fighting bulls during this annual festival made famous by American novelist Ernest Hemingway. Eight of the injured were Spaniards, one was a Briton. So far this year, twenty-one people have been treated at hospitals for injuries during runs in the San Fermin Festival. Saturday's run was the third of eight during the nine-day festival of drinking and machismo in this northern Spanish city. In the morning ritual, runners who have usually been up all night dancing and drinking take off in a mad scramble ahead of the herd of bulls along an 825-metre run from a corral to the city's bullring.

Police net 200,000 'depraved' photos smuggled into Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian security services seized 200,000 "depraved" photographs smuggled into the country on camel-back, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. The pictures of Iranian and international singers and artists were sneaked over the border from Pakistan on the backs of three dromedary camels, IRNA said. One person was arrested in the bust, in the southeastern city of Mir-Javeh on the Iran-Pakistan border. The haul also included 1,580 keyrings bearing "depraved signs."

Belarus seems headed for upset in presidential poll

SHKLOV, Belarus (R) — Self-styled corruption-buster Alexander Lukashenko appeared to be cruising to victory in Sunday's presidential election in Belarus, the first in the conservative former Soviet republic.

Mr. Lukashenko, 39, cast his ballot Sunday morning in the town of Shklov some 200 kilometres northeast of the capital, Minsk, with characteristically populist exhortations.

"I am voting for myself," he told reporters. "For the first time a simple man has a chance to vote freely for a man just like himself."

"My first move will be to fight corruption, first of all at the top," Mr. Lukashenko said. My list of corrupt government officials is growing and only two members of the government leadership will be able to stay in their posts."

But Mr. Lukashenko remains something of an unknown quantity, with no government experience. He has put forward no clear economic policy and given no clue who would be in his government.

The second contender, conservative Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, appeared demoralised at the end of a fierce campaign. He changed his scheduled voting time to avoid facing reporters.

"He does not feel like seeing journalists," said Mr. Kebich's spokesman Vladimir Zametalin.

Mr. Kebich, 58, was beaten into second place in the first round in June, when Mr. Lukashenko won a surprising 45 per cent of the vote against 17 for Kebich.

The prime minister lost further ground in two rounds of televised debate, when his performance appeared lack-

British MPs accused of posing questions for cash

LONDON (R) — A British newspaper Sunday alleged that two Conservative politicians were ready to table questions in parliament in return for £1,000 (\$1,500) each.

Both members of the ruling party denied any impropriety but Dale Campbell-Savours of the opposition Labour Party said he would ask the speaker of the House of Commons to investigate the claims.

A Sunday Times reporter, pretending to be a businessman in search of information on a non-existent company before striking commercial deals, approached 10 Conservative and 10 Labour parliamentarians chosen at random.

The paper said Graham Riddick was asked to table a question asking whether the fictitious company had done any work for the Social Security Department. He returned the cheque after the department said it did not know the company.

Mr. Riddick said in a statement: "What I have found staggering is that a journalist from the Sunday Times, presumably with the connivance

Prisoners' surrender ends bloody Brazil jailbreak

SAO PAULO (R) — Two fugitive prisoners holding three women hostages in a Brazilian hotel surrendered Saturday, ending a jail rebellion and breakout in which a policeman and at least three prisoners were killed, police said.

The twoingleaders had taken refuge in a luxury hotel in the southern city of Porto Alegre after leading a group of about 10 prisoners in a dramatic escape with hostages from the city's central prison late Friday.

"They gave themselves up and are being escorted back to prison," a police spokesman told Reuters from Porto Alegre. "The hostages were freed unharmed."

The surrender of the two last convicts, Dilonei Melara, 35, and Fernando Dias, 21, ended a night of gunbattles in the streets of Porto Alegre between police and the fugitives.

The prisoners, armed with revolvers, had broken out of the prison with at least nine hostages, most of them staff from the prison hospital.

Final casualty figures remained confused. The police spokeswoman said one police inspector and three inmates were shot dead in a series of gunfights Friday night.

The prison rebellion and escape in the city, capital of Brazil's most southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, was one of the bloodiest in recent years.

After initially seizing 24 staff in the prison hospital Thursday afternoon, the fugitive inmates had driven out of the central prison late Friday, holding nine of the hostages at gunpoint in three cars they had obtained from the local authorities as part of their demands.

Punjab governor, 12 others die in crash

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — The governor of the northern Indian state of Punjab and 12 other people were killed in a plane crash Saturday near the Himalayan resort town of Kulu, the state government said.

There were no survivors on the 14-seat Beechcraft carrying Governor Surendra Nath, 64, nine members of his family and three crewmen.

It crashed minutes before it was to land after a 40-minute flight from Chandigarh, Punjab's state capital.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but an aide to the governor said there was fog in the area, and there was no evidence to indicate sabotage.

Residents told local photographers there was a big bang as the aircraft hit trees in the

S. Africa's AIDS baby clinic forced to turn children away

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The only clinic in South Africa's biggest township set up to care for AIDS-infected babies is turning children away because it cannot cope with the numbers of children abandoned by HIV-positive mothers.

The Salvation Army says its Bethesda "Mercy Clinic" in sprawling Soweto, currently caring for 12 AIDS babies, was unable to cope with the numbers of children abandoned by HIV-positive mothers and had already turned away 10.

"We have had to turn away 10 babies," said Salvation Army Captain Lina Jwili.

"Six have been placed on Zakhe (place of safety) in Umhlati, the others are either in Coronation, Johannesburg General or Baragwanath Hospital," Capt. Jwili told Reuters.

She said some HIV-positive women were thrown out of their family homes and later abandoned their babies.

"Some mothers find themselves on the streets when their families chuck them out after hearing they've got AIDS in their bodies," she said.

She said a small home to care for six HIV-positive mothers and their babies had been built on the same plot as Bethesda but there wasn't enough money to furnish it.

Once opened, the home will care for and counsel the women until their families have been "tackled to take the women back," Capt. Jwili said.

Bethesda has just received a government grant of slightly more than 3,000 rand a month, something they have been waiting for since they first opened last August.

The Salvation Army's media spokeswoman Denise

Baisley said the grant would contribute to the "general running of the (first) home, including food, medicine and the upkeep of the premises," but met only half of the amount needed.

"The home's expenditure is 6,500 rand — 541 per child, per month but the grant only pays for 259 rand per child."

She said the rest would have to come from public donations.

The Salvation Army needs donations for another planned home for HIV-infected babies as they expect to have to accommodate up to 30 more abandoned HIV-positive babies by December.

She said the home would cost about 250,000 rand — a sum the Salvation Army hoped to raise through a national fundraising campaign launched three months ago.

Opposition leader: Royalty irrelevant to Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's anti-republican opposition leader Alexander Downer described the royal family as "irrelevant" to Australia and the queen as "nice, but English" in an interview published here Sunday.

He also blamed the recent behaviour of the young royals, which he likened to a "Hollywood saga," for the recent upsurge in republicanism among Australians.

Since his election as leader of the conservative Liberal Party in May, Mr. Downer has opened up a big lead in the polls against the Labour government of Prime Minister Paul Keating during a period in which Mr. Keating's republican push has been one of the major topics.

Mr. Downer styles himself "a constitutionalist" rather than a die-hard monarchist, arguing that in a time of high unemployment and other social ills there is no need to change the Australian constitution which he says has worked well.

However, his own party appears deeply divided on the issue, with many of his senior Liberal colleagues "coming out" in support of a republic for Australia.

Mr. Downer told the Sunday Telegraph the behaviour of some of the young royals had probably been very helpful to the republican cause, but that was irrelevant to the debate as was the monarchy itself.

"The theoretical link with the British monarchy doesn't

Jupiter to be smashed with 21-slug barrage from outer space

WASHINGTON (AP) — Like mountain-sized slugs from a celestial machine gun, fragments of a shattered comet will rattle-tat-tat into Jupiter starting next Saturday. It could be the show of a lifetime — or a dud.

Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 is a string of space rock or ice speeding in line toward Jupiter at about 130,000 miles (209,000 kilometers) per hour. The largest fragment is almost two miles in diameter.

When they hit, the Comet shards will explode with the force of about 200,000 megatons of TNT. Each is expected to trigger a fireball more than 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) across and rising up more than 600 miles (960 kilometers) above the Jovian Clouds.

"That's many times larger than any nuclear bomb ever exploded on Earth," said Lucy McFadden of the University of Maryland, one of an army of astronomers who will watch the show.

Unfortunately, most of the fireworks will be shielded from direct view by tele-

scopes on Earth. The impacts will occur just beyond Jupiter's western horizon, as viewed from Earth.

Even so, just about every major telescope on Earth, along with an array of instruments in space, will be aimed at Jupiter on July 16 for what most astronomers believe will be the most spectacular space collision they'll ever witness.

"This is the first time in history we've been able to predict a major impact and then prepare to observe it scientifically," said Gene Shoemaker, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist who is co-discoverer of the comet.

"We're seeing an event that happens once in a millennium. There is about one chance in 10,000 that we would find something that would hit during a time period of a century or so."

"I've dreamed my whole life of an impact on the moon," he said. "I never occurred to me that I would have an opportunity to see an impact on Jupiter."

Mr. Shoemaker, his wife Carolyn and David H. Levy discovered the comet on March 24, 1993 while conducting their monthly photo scan of the heavens from an outdated telescope on Palomar Mountain, California.

"We still do it the old fashioned way," said Mr. Shoemaker. "We're right out in the open (observation) dome, guiding the telescope by hand."

The team has conducted sky searches for years and made previous comet discoveries.

Mr. Shoemaker said they found this one on a night when the weather was marginal and when the photo film was thought to be of poor quality because of an exposure accident. They took the pictures and hoped.

The comet was first sighted by Carolyn Shoemaker, who was analysing the film with a flicker-device that picks up celestial movement. What she saw appeared to be an elongated point of light.

"It was clearly the strangest object we had ever seen," said Mr. Shoemaker. "Carolyn called it 'a squashed comet' when she first looked at it. Carolyn

never had any doubt. She was sure it was a comet."

Soon, some of the most sophisticated astronomy instruments in the world, including the orbiting Hubble space telescope, were focused on the "squashed comet."

By May, the Hubble and other instruments had confirmed that Shoemaker-Levy 9 was actually 21 pieces, streaking along in a game of follow-the-leader.

Backtracking the orbit, experts determined that the comet apparently passed near Jupiter in July, 1992 and was shattered by powerful gravitational forces of the giant planet. The pieces lined up like freight cars and then swung far back into space, as if taking a running start toward a dive to oblivion.

Now they are bearing down on Jupiter at a speed of more than 37 miles per second.

The first rock hits the upper clouds of Jupiter at 1954 GMT Saturday, pieces keep flying in at irregular intervals for the next five days, with the last one hitting at about

July 11, 1994



Residents of the southwestern Rwandan town of Butare await developments in the Hutu capital, Kigali. The RPF now controls over two-thirds of Rwanda and is moving westward toward the French safety zone (AFP photo)

Endara meets U.S. officials, declines to alter position on Haitian refugees

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — President Guillermo Endara and U.S. officials apparently smoothed over sore feelings Saturday after Mr. Endara earlier in the week revoked an offer to accept up to 10,000 Haitian refugees.

But Mr. Endara said he would stand by his withdrawal of the offer.

"I am extremely pleased that the government of the United States has sent emissaries here specifically to make amends for the actions of their representatives," Mr. Endara told reporters after the meeting.

In attendance were Clinton administration emissaries Sol Linowitz and Michael Kozakand, along with U.S. embassy officials based in Panama.

Mr. Linowitz said the two sides talked about improving relations between their countries and leaving behind misunderstandings that emerged during talks about where the Haitians would be housed.

Panama announced Monday it would accept up to 10,000 Haitians fleeing their army-dominated country in rickety ships, provided the United Nations oversaw the operation and Haitians were not housed on U.S. bases.

Mr. Endara said he changed his mind Thursday because U.S. officials wanted to build temporary housing on a military base and to work directly with Panama instead of through the United Nations.

"I felt mocked and intimidated," Mr. Endara said in a telephone interview with

Telemundo Television News Thursday. "I negotiated with them till midnight, and they mistreated me. They treated me as if this were a banana republic."

Accepting the modified U.S. proposal would be "unpatriotic and submissive," said Mr. Endara, who took office after a U.S. invasion of Panama toppled Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In Italy, where President Bill Clinton is attending an economic summit, an American official denied U.S. officials were rude to Mr. Endara.

Mr. Endara said any future decision on the matter can now only be made after consulting with the Panamanian people and with the participation of President-Elect Ernesto Perez Balladarez, who takes office on Sept. 1.

Panama's original agreement to accept the refugees was widely criticized at home, and U.S. officials blamed domestic opposition for Mr. Endara's decision.

U.S. Haitian policy suffered another setback this week when the United States was able to get agreement from other nations to provide only 2,000 to 3,000 troops and civilians for a peacekeeping force in Haiti if military rulers there left power, the New York Times reported Saturday.

A force that once was envisioned at 12,000 to 14,000 strong has been scaled back by planners to 9,000, with the United States counting on other countries to provide at least half of the total, the news-

paper said. The Haitian refugee flow continued unabated Friday as the administration grappled with where to put the boat people until a solution to the country's political crisis is found.

U.S. officials travelled to the Caribbean to work out safe haven specifics with Grenada, Antigua and Dominica, and to hold talks with at least two other potential safe haven countries.

Mr. Clinton, in Naples, Italy, for the economic summit of the world's richest industrial countries, was asked three times at a news conference Friday whether the refugee problem had increased the possibility of a U.S. move to drive Haiti's rulers from power. Each time, he pointedly declined to rule out a military option.

As he spoke, four U.S. warships carrying 2,000 Marines were steaming to Haiti to join eight other American ships enforcing a U.S. trade embargo on Haiti.

Mr. Clinton said the United States has a "clear and significant" interest in protecting human rights and democracy in the Caribbean country.

When it was suggested that he seemed to be laying out a rationale for invasion, he replied: "I think the conduct of the military leaders will have more to do with what options are considered (and) when. And their conduct has not been good."

The military ousted democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide nearly three years ago.

Rwandan refugees return home to Kigali

KIGALI (R) — Thousands of Rwandan refugees, carrying meagre belongings on their heads and pushing rickety wheelbarrows, returned to their homes in an eerily-quiet capital Kigali Sunday.

Columns of Hutus and Tutsis left a handful of camps the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) moved them to Monday after it captured the city and wound their way through streets still reeking of death.

Lieutenant Tony Kurumba told Reuters Sunday: "We have been moving the people for their own security. Kigali is now secure so the people can go home but elsewhere there is still danger."

The RPF told residents, many of whom survived three months of massacres by hiding in attics and basements, to move to the camps while its forces flushed out any remaining pockets of resistance and defused booby-trapped buildings and landmines.

But much of the sprawling central African city remained deserted after thousands from a population which once numbered 350,000 fled westwards with retreating government army troops.

Aid workers and U.N. officials say they believe less than 50,000 stayed behind following weeks of vicious propaganda on state radio warning residents the RPF would slaughter them.

Regine Umurungi, RPF supervisor at the College Saint-Andre religious complex, told Reuters: "The town is now safe and people will be better off in their own homes."

"We have decided to move people because of fears of

dysentery," she added, as groups of impoverished and tired refugees walked past.

There were few scenes of rejoicing among people traumatised by weeks of killing by extremist Hutu militias in revenge for the April 6 slaying of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana.

In one typical scene, a young woman walked aimlessly around in circles trying to listen to a broken child's toy she believed was a radio.

"There are so many like that," remarked one U.N. officer, shaking his head in disbelief.

Aid agencies working in Kigali welcomed the decision to send people home.

Dr. James Orbinski of the international aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) medical relief team told Reuters: "Things are getting better, but there is still a lot of work to be done over the next three months."

Aid workers fear disease and famine could now break out across the small, landlocked country where an estimated 500,000 people have been killed and over two million displaced.

"The crop has not been planted so food relief will be necessary to bridge that gap," Mr. Orbinski said.

Throughout Rwanda, once the most densely populated country in Africa, fields, hills and villages have been deserted by the largely Hutu peasants who eked out a livelihood from the fertile soil.

A good harvest of maize, sorghum and coffee — the country's only cash crop — rotted on the stalk as they fled the civil war and the

advance of the mainly Tutsi RPF.

On Saturday, not one farmer was seen working in the fields on a drive across the country from Katana on the Ugandan border to Kanyaro Haut in Burundi.

The only people were groups of displaced walking along the road. Some said they were returning to their homes after hiding for up to three months from the militias.

Phillipe Gaillard, the recently-departed chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Rwanda, estimated that 2.5 million had been displaced and most of that number were in the southwest of the country.

Those millions, many of whom the ICRC say have been on the road for up to three months, were beyond the reach of aid agencies Sunday despite having crossed into the French-protected safe zones.

French Colonel Didier Borelli told reporters at a French base in the eastern Zairean town of Goma: "A human catastrophe is on the way. Refugees are fleeing in all directions and we're running into new refugee camps."

The refugees were converging on Rwanda's borders with neighbouring Burundi and Zaire. Col. Gaillard said their presence could destabilise the whole area.

"Anything is possible," Col. Gaillard said. "It's not only Rwanda. Maybe the region itself could go on fire."

Over 100 Hutus who fled into Burundi where killed last month, reportedly by Tutsi militiamen who are becoming

increasingly belligerent as the RPF march towards a final victory.

Burundi, which shares the same ethnic make-up as Rwanda, erupted into tribal violence last November after Tutsi troops assassinated Melchior Ndadaye, the first Hutu president of the country. Over 100,000 were believed to have been killed.

Five times that number

have died in Rwanda's conflict, mostly Tutsis. Fearing revenge, the majority Hutu tribe have fled the RPF advance.

Although the Rwandan rebels have taken most of the country and driven the government into an ever-shrinking corner, "The people are still with us," Prime Minister Jean Kambanda claimed Saturday.



A Hutu child sits on the road linking the Rwandan capital Kigali to the town of Gikarama, 40 kilometres west. The child was abandoned as Hutu civilians were fleeing the advancing of Tutsi minority rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front, which seized the capital and now controls the road between the two cities (AFP photo)

Graham Greene was U.K.'s man in Havana — writer

LONDON (R) — Novelist Graham Greene used his literary fame and access to communist leaders to spy for Britain's MI6 secret service for four decades, his biographer said Saturday.

Professor Michael Sheldon said his forthcoming book on Greene, who died three years ago aged 86, was based on information from British government officials "familiar with the subject" as well as evidence from the cloak-and-dagger world.

It has always been known that Greene joined MI6 early in World War II and served in the counter-espionage unit, as a station officer in West Africa and under double agent Kim Philby, and that he resigned in 1944.

Sheldon, an author and professor at Indiana University in the United States, said the cabinet office in London had confirmed to him that Greene served MI6 on an ad hoc basis until the late 1970s and was on its list of freelance contacts until the early 1980s.

"He was useful because he was so famous he could go just about anywhere and see whatever he wanted to see," Sheldon told BBC Radio, adding: "But he was just a dilettante."

"I think certainly 'Our man in Havana' makes you suspect that Greene knows a lot more about espionage than he is letting on," Sheldon said of the novel about a vacuum cleaner salesman who supplies bogus intelligence on Cuba.

"In The Quiet American you get that sense and finally in the 1970s in The Human Factor where he writes so perceptively about the espionage world."

Greene had an insatiable obsession with travel and was forever on the road after World War II, and when air travel was unaffordable for most people he visited Saigon, Hanoi, Warsaw, Moscow, Havana, East Berlin, Bucharest and Belgrade. Officials told Sheldon that in exchange for expenses Greene gave help routinely to MI6, most notably from Vietnam, Poland, China and Russia.

Greene was never an important figure in the world of espionage and most of his assistance was providing a novelist's insights into places where ordinary agents would be noticeable.

"It was almost comic in many respects," Sheldon said of Greene's role. "He wasn't a very good agent for one

Court expected to approve German military role

BONN (R) — German leaders expect the Supreme Court to give Bonn a green light Tuesday for a world military role with the U.N., casting aside the code of military restraint the country adopted after World War II.

Politicians and government officials said they expected the Supreme Court to back Chancellor Helmut Kohl's push for united Germany to join international peacekeeping and combat missions under a United Nations mandate.

The court must rule on a complaint by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) against the use of German troops in NATO's monitoring of U.N. sanctions and the no-fly zone in former Yugoslavia, and peacekeeping — since abandoned — in Somalia.

The SPD argued that the 1949 constitution, drawn up in reaction to the horrors of Nazi militarism, explicitly forbids the use of German troops except in the defence of Germany or its NATO alliance partners.

"After July 12th, everything will be theoretically possible," said one government expert who declined to be named.

"We will have the freedom the government wanted to act within the NATO alliance

and with the United Nations," he said.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Defence Minister Volker Rucht told the panel of judges in testimony in April that Germany's allies were relying on it to make troops available for international missions.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has urged Germany to make troops available for a permanent standing force for U.N. peacekeeping missions.

However, officials said they did not expect Germany to rush into any peacekeeping role soon for the simple reason that no new efforts by

the U.N. are planned at the moment.

They were sceptical of suggestions that Paris might ask Bonn to join its deployment in Rwanda, where French troops have set up a safe zone for refugees.

"Even if there were no more legal problems with going to Rwanda, there could be a material problem," one official said, noting German troops were not equipped for a tropical climate.

"And there is the question of whether it would serve German interests. We will always have to decide whether German interests are at stake," the official added.

Yeltsin gets warm welcome in Naples

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi went out of his way Sunday to welcome Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the Group of Seven industrialised nations' annual political talks.

"A historic event took place at this morning's session," he said in introducing the summit's final statement.

"For the first time in 20 years, a new member has joined us — President Yeltsin, whose presence here has a significance we regard as extraordinary."

Russia's status vis-a-vis the G-7 is a sensitive issue. The Western powers have made clear that Russia's weak economy disqualifies it from full

membership — hence Mr. Yeltsin did not attend the group's economic debate on the first day of the summit.

But it has become customary to invite the Russian leader to attend the second, political, day of talks. U.S. President Bill Clinton said this year Mr. Yeltsin was attending for the first time as a full participant rather than a guest.

Mr. Yeltsin, mindful of nationalist sensitivities in the former superpower, he leads, has stressed repeatedly that Russia is present as an equal, not a supplicant.

Arriving in Naples Saturday, he played it cool, saying Russia was in no hurry to become full member of the

group and would wait until this happened naturally.

Mr. Berlusconi also departed from the prepared text of the statement to say that in discussing matters affecting Russia during the talks, there had been full agreement on all points.

He said Mr. Yeltsin and the other leaders had agreed to cooperate on tackling international crime, money laundering and nuclear safety.

"If we look to the future, the possibility of close cooperation with a great country like Russia diminishes the risk of crisis and increases the chances of maintaining peace and stability," Mr. Berlusconi said.

Bangladesh Islamic fundamentalists criticise government over Nasrin

DHAKA (R) — Islamic fundamentalists calling for the execution of feminist writer Taslima Nasrin for alleged blasphemy Sunday accused the government of backing anti-Islamic groups in the country.

"We have noticed with deep anger and indignation that the government is tacitly giving support to anti-Islamic cliques, to anti-state activists and renegades," the Jamaat-Islami Party said in a memorandum handed to the Interior Ministry.

"We regret to further say that this government has failed to represent the world's second largest Muslim nation (Bangladesh)," it said.

It described Ms. Nasrin as the ring-leader of a clique seeking to insult Islam and spread hatred against Islamic believers.

"They are involved in heinous attempts to assassinate the characters of highly revered Islamic leaders and do not deserve to be ex-

country's largest religion-based political party, which called on the government to enact a blasphemy law.

Ms. Nasrin, a physician-turned-writer in her early 30s, sparked Muslim fury after she was quoted in India's Statesman newspaper as saying Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

Ms. Nasrin said she was misquoted. She is now in hiding after the government ordered her arrest and Islamic militants issued death threats.

Jamaat said in its memorandum that Ms. Nasrin has made other objectionable remarks against Islam, including saying there were mistakes in the Koran and calling Allah a liar, the memorandum said.

The more militant Islam Morcha, which called for a massive protest march to Dhaka on July 29, said Ms. Nasrin should be executed for attacking Islam.

In a separate development, retired Major-General Safiul-

staff in independent Bangladesh, entered politics Sunday by enrolling himself in the main opposition party, the Awami League.

"Today we are living in a state of political uncertainty which is similar to conditions in 1971," said the general, who received a national gallantry award as a sector commander in the 1971 War of Independence against Pakistan.

"I have decided to join politics to help implement the dreams and spirits of the independence," he said.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina welcomed Safiullah to her party, saying he was one of the most brilliant army officers the country had ever produced.

Political analysts said Safiullah's joining would boost the prestige of the Awami League after veterans such as former Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Hossain and youth leader Mustafa Mohsin Montu deserted the party last year over differ-

Mountbatten killer released for Ulster talks

LONDON (AFP) — An IRA member sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1979 assassination of Lord Mountbatten, Queen Elizabeth II's cousin, was "secretly released" in late March to take part in peace talks on Ulster. The Mail On Sunday reported.

Quoting Secret Service sources, The Mail On Sunday said Irish Republican Army (IRA) member Thomas MacMahon was "smuggled out of jail at 6 a.m. on Thursday, March 31" for five days. March 31 was the eve of the IRA's 22-hour Easter ceasefire.

He then "attended two secret meetings... with Sinn Fein (the IRA's political wing) leaders, members of the IRA Army Council, terrorists from the South Armagh Brigade and other prisoners," the paper continued.

Two loyalist Ulster Unionist MPs expressed their indignation at the revelations.

William Ross, MP for Londonderry East and considered a moderate, said that, "given the behaviour of the government of the Irish Republic and given the willingness of our own government to go along with the IRA propaganda, I suppose anything is possible."

"But the idea that a man who killed Lord Mountbatten, or murdered anybody else, is being let out is enough to turn the guts of any decent body."

"This only the tip of a very large iceberg of skulduggery," he continued. "What have they promised the IRA?"

The Reverend Martin Smyth, Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast South, described the news as "par for the course in so far as prisoners were consulted before the

Downing Street declaration," which provides for republicans joining the peace process if the IRA and Sinn Fein renounce violence.

"The governments in London and Dublin have been trying to placate the prisoners and the men of terror."

"The IRA continue to string two governments along and have created the mayhem that is continuing in Northern Ireland," he added.

Mr. MacMahon was given his life sentence for planting a bomb on the boat of Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India as he cruised off the Irish coast. The blast also killed his grandson and two other people.

A Protestant workman seriously injured in an attack by loyalist paramilitaries on June 17 here died Sunday in hospital, police said.

The death of William Cor-

rigan brought to 45 the total number of victims of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland since the beginning of 1994.

The dead man was one of six Protestants taking their lunch-break on their building site when members of the outlawed paramilitary group the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) — which draws its strength from the province's Protestant community — opened fire on them.

The attack, in which one of the workmen was killed outright, was apparently carried out by mistake.

On June 16, two Protestants had been killed and two others seriously hurt in the Shankill Road area of the city by the Irish National Liberation Army, a dissident offshoot of the IRA.

One of those hurt, a senior UVF official, died Saturday of his wounds.

Kravchuk promises reforms in Ukraine election

KIEV (R) — Ukrainians voted in the final round of a presidential election Sunday and were told by incumbent Leonid Kravchuk that a vote for him meant support for "coherent but fair reforms" and good relations with Russia.

But he said he would not stand for a relationship in which Moscow would "constantly try to bring us to our knees."

His opponent, former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, pledged to cut taxes and "restore order." Mr. Kuchma, who backs economic union with Russia, said he would go into opposition if voters rejected his bid to unseat the man he says plundered Ukraine's economy.

Mr. Kravchuk held a seven-point lead over Mr. Kuchma in the first round of the election last month, but the two men were neck-and-neck going into the run-off. Opinion polls have variously put one or the other in the lead.

Mr. Kravchuk told voters outside a central Kiev polling station that he would move

forms, which have made little progress since Ukraine's independence in 1991. But he pledged people would not suffer because of "the changes."

"We must move forward coherently and decisively so that reforms are carried out quickly and in radical fashion. But fairly," he said. "Reforms must not be conducted in such a way that people suffer. Reforms must improve people's lives."

Mr. Kravchuk's pledge was made after leaders of the G7 leading industrialised countries offered \$4 billion in aid to help Ukraine's economy — provided Kiev undertook efforts to catch up on lost time with reforms.

The offer could well help his re-election bid, despite coming so late in the campaign. An additional \$200 million was promised to help close the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Mr. Kravchuk said good relations with Moscow were a priority. But he served notice he would not submit unconditionally to Moscow's will —

that Mr. Kuchma sought too cozy a relationship with Russia.

"Any policy concerning Russia can only have two options — good relations and very good relations. There is no third option," he said. "Anyone undertaking such a policy must be truly a president. He cannot pursue this policy if Russia is constantly trying to bring us to our knees."

Mr. Kuchma voted in the eastern city of Dnipropetrovsk, hedrock of his support, where he was head of the world's largest missile factory for six years.

"My first steps if elected will deal with the economy. I will cut taxes sharply," he said.

"We have to restore order. There is no authority in the country. If I am not elected, I will help create an opposition party. But a president must be above parties."

Electoral officials said the turnout was generally higher than in the first round, when 67 per cent of voters cast ballots. By noon, more than a

Mr. Kravchuk can count on heavy support in nationalist western Ukraine, while the industrial east will back Mr. Kuchma. A few marginal central districts could decide the issue.

Elected president in 1991 on the day when Ukrainians voted for independence, Mr. Kravchuk had trailed for months in surveys as Ukrainians blamed him for deep economic hardship.

He clawed his way back to par by stressing his ability as a statesman who won respect for Ukraine abroad and avoided the civil violence that engulfed other former Soviet republics.

The close of campaigning saw increasingly bitter exchanges between the two men.

Mr. Kravchuk accused Mr. Kuchma of being prepared to give away the Crimean peninsula, whose pro-Russian leaders are seeking eventual reunification with Moscow.

Mr. Kuchma complained Mr. Kravchuk was monopolising state television time. He also said the first-round poll was distorted by villa-

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City for all

JERUSALEM is the city that evokes emotions in the hearts of hundreds of millions of followers of the three monotheistic religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. For thousands of years the city was fought over by Persians, Romans, Arabs, Europeans, Christians, Jews and Muslims. In the past century alone control over it changed hands three times, first the British after World War I, then the Arabs after the Second World War and the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948, then the Israelis after the 1967 war.

Following the June 5 war the U.N. Security Council issued resolution 242 that calls among other things for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. But Israel reacted by annexing the city and, in the next 27 years, expanded it to a size that constitutes one fifth of the area of the West Bank.

The issue of Jerusalem has two components to it, sovereignty over its geographical area and the right of the faithful to free access to its holy places, the old walled city that for centuries had a Jewish, a Muslim and a Christian quarter.

While the Israelis and Palestinians claim the city, the faithful everywhere have a right to it as well. The world community at large would certainly not accept a divided holy city, nor will it accept total control over it by the minority among the three religions, the Jews. The Muslim and the Christian communities would want to have control over their own shrines within the holy city, the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the Jews the Wailing Wall.

While Palestinian and Israeli negotiators would, sometime within the next two years, start tackling this sensitive issue, religious leaders from the three faiths need to step forward and present a model for future coexistence between their followers in the Old City and within the Greater Jerusalem metropolis.

During this week's visit by the Vatican foreign minister, Jean-Louis Tauran, to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which for most of this century has been the custodian of holy places in Jerusalem, it became evident that the two parties' position on the holy city is politically and legally compatible. We both agree that Jerusalem is an occupied territory and neither of us accepts that it remains under the control of one party, Israel.

Jordan in its quest for full peace recognises that no peace will be comprehensive or lasting if it did not address the issue of Jerusalem, on both the religious and political levels. While the latter will be negotiated between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the former requires a broader involvement of nations and religious leaders since Jordan has always fulfilled its duty towards the city and its sacred shrines. This country remains determined to continue to uphold its responsibilities for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the war in Yemen has ended, the time has come for the Arab states which conspired against the unity of that country to realise that they have no alternative but to take stock of what has happened and start working for Arab interests. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Sunday. Arab states have sought to disrupt unity in Yemen, to internationalise the conflict between Sana'a and Aden, to bring in foreign troops to destroy the country as happened with Iraq in the Gulf crisis, said the paper. It said that those who triggered the bloodshed and turned one Yemeni against the other had hoped that this action would serve their own interests and had hoped that the divided people would succumb to colonial powers. The paper said that the conspirators should shoulder a serious responsibility and should realise that their action represents a two edged sword which could be detrimental to their own interests. It said there is no alternative to reconciliation among Arab states at a time when they face the challenges entailed in the coming peace with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i paid tribute to the efforts of Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi and his plans to improve services for the Ammanites, singling out the experiment of closing a whole Amman district before vehicles, making it exclusively the property of pedestrians. Hazem Mubayyid said that experiment last Thursday could have better achieved its purpose had there been art groups to present their talents and their gifts to the public.

Washington Watch

TAWFIQ ZAYYAD, mayor of Nazareth since 1975 and member of the Israeli Knesset since 1976, was one of my heroes. He was also my friend.

Though his tragic accidental death may have been overshadowed by news of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's visit to Jericho, the loss of this great leader cannot be underestimated.

My doctoral dissertation, "Arabs in the Promised Land," was inspired by Mr. Zayyad's poetry and his political work. The struggle of the Palestinians who remained in Israel after 1948 is one of the most courageous and compelling facets of the history of that proud and stalwart people.

They were stripped of most of their leadership, 80 per cent of their population, the majority of their villages — over 400 of which were destroyed and erased from the map — and their land, over 1.25 million acres of which were confiscated by the new Jewish state.

They were denied access to their history and culture by the educational system of a state which relegated them to second-class status. They were victims of the same harsh military rule that has been imposed on Gaza and the West Bank of the past 27 years. They were denied the right to fully participate in politics, and of their right to full economic and social development. Since 1948 they have endured expulsions, curfews, administrative de-

tention, land confiscation, torture and massacres. And, perhaps most tragically of all, they were largely forgotten and sometimes even snubbed by most of the Arab World.

Yet they remained in their home and towns and villages. In fact, they not only remained but have been stalwart in their struggle for full equality and civil rights, and for recognition of their national identity as Palestinian Arabs in Israel.

And they have produced heroic literature — poets like Tawfiq Zayyad who inspired the rest of the Arab Nation. They have produced heroic leaders — like Tawfiq Zayyad, who rose above all odds to lead their struggle for full rights.

I first met Tawfiq Zayyad in 1976 when I was asked to organise a national tour for him by an Arab-American academic association (the Association of Arab-American University Graduates). The gruelling schedule I had organised for him took him to every major city for speeches, forums and meetings with the Arab-American community.

Even by that time Mr. Zayyad had emerged as a highly respected leader. His election as mayor of Nazareth had come at a great price. The Israeli government felt so threatened by the prospect of this "radical" becoming mayor that it had warned the residents of Nazareth that, should they elect Mr. Zayyad, they would lose all government assistance to their community. Mr. Zayyad proved sufficiently

popular and well-respected to overcome that threat and win the election.

When the government did in fact suspend its assistance, he responded by creating a summer work camp in Nazareth that has, to this day, annually brought thousands of young people from around the world to perform community service and implement public works projects for the city.

Mr. Zayyad also played a leading role in the great "Land Day" general strike of May 30, 1976, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel demonstrated their opposition to Israeli government plans to confiscate more land in a crude effort to further "Judaize" the Galilee region of the country.

Yet, what intrigued me most about Tawfiq Zayyad during the tour (and the two subsequent tours I organised for him during the years I ran the Palestine Human Rights Campaign) was how he was able to struggle on so many fronts simultaneously.

He not only confronted the racist anti-Arab policies that sought to deny Arabs their full rights as citizens of Israel, he also stood against Arab and Arab-American attitudes that he understood as running counter to any effort to achieve a just and lasting peace to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Long a defender of the right of Palestinians to establish an independent state in the territories occu-

pied by Israel in 1967, he vigorously defended a two-state solution that would also ensure Israeli nationality as well. He was a realist who saw the need for both peoples, the Israelis and the Palestinians, to accept the reality of each other's existence.

He was an ardent foe of the use of violence against Israeli civilians. I vividly recall an incident when he was challenged by a Palestinian-American who chided the mayor's call for a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The speaker demanded to know whether or not Mr. Zayyad supported the "Palestinians' right to armed struggle."

Mr. Zayyad responded, "It is true that Palestinians have the right to armed struggle to resist occupation — the U.N. even passed a resolution confirming that right. But when you have a history of using that right as badly and as inhumanly as you have, then you forfeit that right."

On one other occasion, I was with the mayor at a performance by a Palestinian dance troupe. The group was composed of young children from refugee camps in Syria. They performed in military khakis and carried tiny wooden guns. What troubled the mayor most was the announcer's assertion before a U.S. audience that the children were performing a "traditional Palestinian dance."

Clearly saddened, he leaned over to me and said, "This is not our tradition."

We have always been a peaceful and joyful people. They are bastardising our tradition and our culture."

Mr. Zayyad was a strong man who held strong opinions, and he fought for them.

His political party reminded the "outside Arabs" that a strong Palestinian community remained firmly planted in the Arab towns and villages in what became Israel after 1948. He also over stopped reminding the Israelis of the Arabs they uprooted in 1948, and he upbraided them for the villages they demolished but could not erase.

And Mr. Zayyad never let his Arab constituents forget the refugees of 1948. In his poetry, and then by constructing a monument in Nazareth to those who were expelled or had fled, he sought to create a permanent reminder that the rights of those Palestinians must also be recognised and remembered.

I last saw Tawfiq Zayyad in January in Jerusalem. He would come to see me at the end of his sessions in the Knesset. Each night I was there he would, over dinner, recreate that night's Knesset debates with all the vigor and drama that he had put into the debate itself. He was a joy to be with.

Those who would gather around to listen (he was a marvelous storyteller — a magnet who could draw people to him) would laugh and argue and, at times, ask him to recite one of his poems. Though a mayor and a Knesset member,

Tawfiq Zayyad remained first a poet and an entertainer.

I learned of Mr. Zayyad's tragic death from a phone call. My son, Joseph who is working in Jerusalem this summer as a legal intern, called me as soon as he heard the news.

My children loved the man — even though they had only known him as children. They remembered him from times he had stayed as a guest in our home. They would call him "the man who used to bounce us in the air."

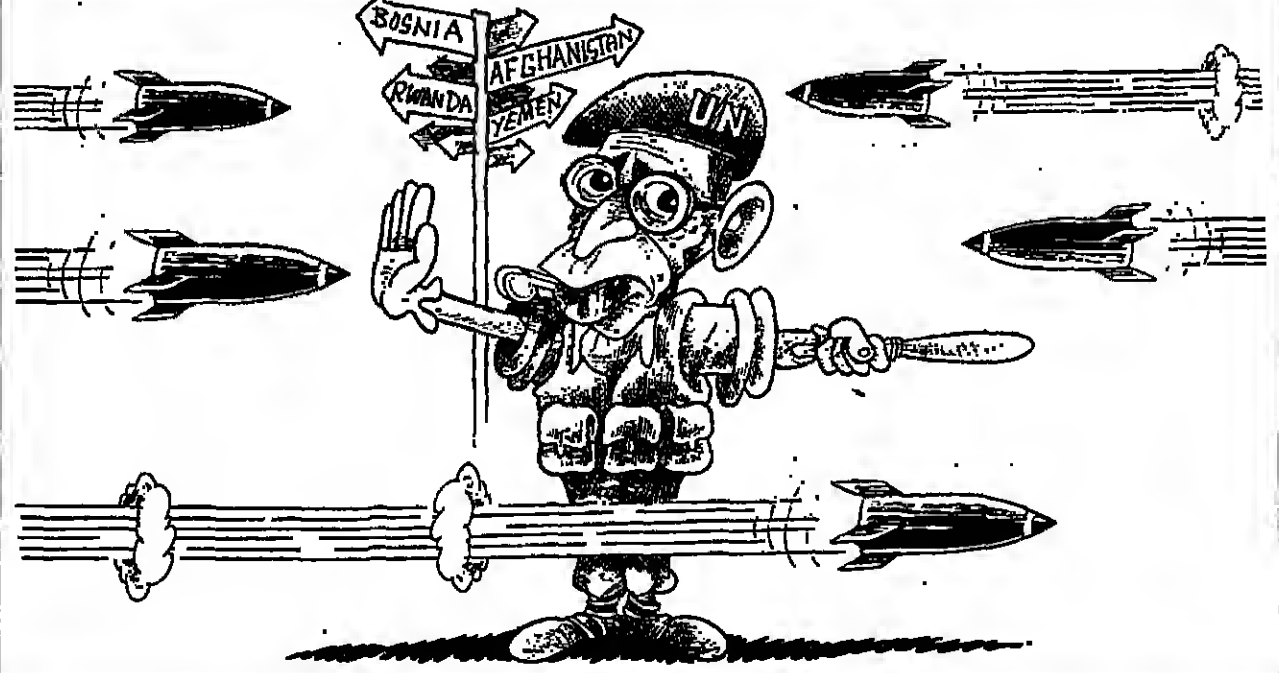
When Joseph was going to Jerusalem, I made certain that he would call Tawfiq Zayyad upon his arrival. I wanted him to get to know Tawfiq Zayyad the man. I also wanted Mr. Zayyad to know my son as a man.

What impressed Joseph the most after their first meeting, in addition to Mr. Zayyad's insights and his political analysis, was how he was loved by ordinary people — the waiters, the drivers, the cleaning staff. They all responded to his warmth and his joy. He was a real man of the people.

On the day he called to tell me of Tawfiq Zayyad's death, Joseph said, "I'm so glad I had a chance to meet him. Dad. It was an incredible experience. He was unforgettable."

That he was. Through his courageous political struggle, through his poetry, and through his joy for life and his love of people, Tawfiq Zayyad will never be forgotten.

M. KAHIL



Russian church springs back into business

By Oleg Shchedrov
Reuter

KOSTROMA, Russia — "You wouldn't believe it, they're selling bottled water," a young woman giggled as she showed the way to an aluminium shed on the outskirts of this ancient town on the Volga River.

Bottled drinking water is still rather exotic in provincial Russia. But leaders of the Orthodox church in Kostroma and a local convent have decided this is just what they need to revive their financial fortunes and help fund good works.

The church, once the richest land-owner in Russia whose wealth was envied even by the Tsars, is back in business after a 70-year enforced break.

One-and-a-half litre dome-shaped "Saitut Springs" bottles — with a label proclaiming the water has been purified to international standards and blessed by the patriarch — are gracing many a dinner table in Moscow.

"I admit that the whole thing looks unusual," said Archbishop Alexander, the 37-year-old head of the church in the Kostroma region. "It's the first commercial enterprise of the church and it is the first such plant in Russia."

"But the patriarch is a wise man, who understood that there is no other way to raise funds for our needs and be supported our aspirations."

The archbishop said the

rapid expansion of the church in the years following the liberal reforms of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had caused acute financial problems.

"We have 135 parishes in the area now, compared with only 65 back in 1985," he said. "But most of the churches were returned to the church in a shocking condition, some completely ruined. Now lots of money is needed to restore them."

Many historic churches and monasteries in Kostroma, from where the Romanov dynasty of Tsars overthrown in 1917 was summoned to power in Moscow, were carefully restored at the town's expense. Now the church is claiming many of them back.

The archbishop said the church also badly needed money to revive its charitable activities and set up Orthodox Christian youth organisations.

"We can only rely on ourselves," he said. "Local businessmen are too weak to help us and there are no other sources to raise funds."

The idea of selling blessed water came some two years ago.

A U.S. businessman, John King, occasionally visited the town and established close contacts with the local church.

"He asked how we could help and after long discussions we agreed that the best way was to launch some project which would

allow us to earn money by ourselves," the archbishop said.

He could not remember who was the first to propose bottling water — a business previously unknown in Russia — nor who suggested the name "Saint Springs."

"Well, this location is known as 'Saint Springs,'" he said. "It's not that water is holy here, of course. It's just water here is known to be the best and best tasting in the vicinity."

Mr. King provided production lines to make bottles and to bottle the water free of charge. All revenue from the project was intended for restoring churches and charitable works.

The plant, which employs some 30 workers, went into operation early this year. But it is working below capacity as the bottle production line is not yet built and bottles have to be imported.

Workers, dressed in tidy blue overalls, walked quickly across the huge shed. No one could be seen idly smoking or chatting, as is often the case in Russian factories.

"We don't get an awful lot of money," said a young woman worker. "But after all it's a job, which is difficult to get in town where most enterprises are closed."

Kostroma, with its textile and machine building plants, is suffering badly in Russia's economic slump. Most enterprises have effectively closed down after putting workers on "in-

definite unpaid leave."

The archbishop admitted his project was still a novelty but said church administrations in many other regions would like to follow suit.

He said that in pre-revolutionary Russia the church ran many prosperous agricultural businesses in the region.

The Russian Orthodox Church, with its vast estates and rich monasteries, built up property which reinforced its traditional spiritual role in Russia.

The Tsars would launch occasional attacks on church property in attempts to weaken what they saw as a dangerous competitor for power in the country. The last such attack was in the early 18th century, when Peter the Great stripped the monasteries of much of their land.

The final blow to the church came in 1917, when victorious Communists separated it from the state and confiscated all its property. The church was also banned from engaging in any business activities.

"By restarting business activities, we do not aim to make the church rich," the archbishop said. "We only want to have enough money to fund our basic activities."

The church is completely happy to be separated from the state," he added. "It is not seeking an official role for itself. The church was and will be the spiritual leader in Russia — and that is enough."

U.N. efforts for peace in Rwanda an uphill battle

By Buchizya Mseteka
Reuter

GISENYI, Rwanda — The United Nations is pushing a fresh peace initiative to end Rwanda's bloodshed, but it faces an uphill battle to persuade a winning rebel army it is time to abandon guns and talk peace.

The peace bid by U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, Shahaya Khan, aims to secure an immediate ceasefire, bring the embattled government and the rebels to the negotiating table and push the central African state onto the path of democracy.

"It's an uphill task and an ambitious one too," said Francis Bizimungu, a trader in this lakeside resort.

Mr. Bizimungu, a member of Rwanda's majority Hutu tribe, added: "For a country like Rwanda, which has shed so much blood all in the name of ethnicity and where the military balance is now tilted in favour of one group, talk of a ceasefire and reconciliation sounds far-fetched."

Ambassador Khan, a veteran Pakistani diplomat, will spend the next few days shuttling between the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) stronghold in Kigali and the rump government's sanctuary in Gisenyi to try to broker a ceasefire.

"My main objective is to secure a ceasefire in Rwanda. I think the time has come to put weapons aside and talk peace," he told reporters on Thursday when he arrived in Gisenyi, a heartland of the ruling Hutu class.

Political analysts say that securing a truce on paper has never been a problem in this hilly country with an unparalleled record of violence since the mainly Tutsi rebels invaded from neighbouring Uganda in October 1990.

Aid workers estimate more than half a million people have been killed, mainly Tutsis and Hutu government opponents, by the army and pro-government militia since President Juvenal Habyarimana was assassinated on April 6.

The problem, which analysts blame on centuries-old ethnic hatred, has been to achieve an atmosphere of trust crucial to the

implementation of any accord.

Neighbours ranging from Tanzania to Zaïre and bodies such as the Organisation of African Unity and even the U.N. have in the past three years bunched the two sides to round-table talks.

Accords have been signed with much pomp and pageantry, only to be completely ignored by both sides as soon as the ink dried.

"Rwanda's problem is not getting the two sides to sign a piece of paper. It has been to build trust for one another in their minds. That is what past peace envoys learned and something that Mr. Khan will surely discover in the next few days," an aid worker told Reuters.

His view was reinforced by Rwanda's Minister of Information, Eliezer Niyitegeka who admits lack of trust remains a major stumbling block.

"We will sign an agreement if there is one. But we doubt the sincerity of the Rwanda Patriotic Front," he told reporters at Gisenyi's Meridien hotel, where the remnants of government have camped, turning the country's most luxurious hotel into a refugee camp for the elite.

The mistrust and hate between Tutsis and Hutus has lasted generations. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, clashes between the two groups claimed thousands of lives.

Near the Meridien Hotel, army chief-of-staff major-general Augustin Bizimungu has set up a temporary command post for an army that has lost the will to fight and arms to fight with.

The ministers, their aides and families look depressed and nervous though still clad in expensive foreign-tailored suits. Many are said to be making arrangements to leave the country through the frontier in the eastern Zairean town of Goma.

"We do not know what to do. We do not know what tomorrow holds for us. There is fear and panic here," a Rwandan journalist told Reuters.

Analysts say a string of battlefield victories by the RPF adds complications to Mr. Khan's push for a ceasefire package.

Sana'a

(Continued)

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G-7 calls for aid for Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

for all."

In a toughly-worded statement, they declared: "Following the death of Kim Il-Sung, we must continue to seek a solution to the problem created by North Korea's decision to withdraw from the IAEA," the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The G-7 leaders paid tribute to the people of South Africa for "ending apartheid by constitutional means" and pledged political and financial support for its new government.

The statement said the G-7 leaders "salute the achievement" of the South African people to this respect.

They also committed themselves "to assist the new government in its efforts to construct a stable and prosperous democracy."

The group said Iran's attitude to "terrorism" ran counter to "international efforts for peace and stability" and called on Tehran to change its behaviour.

"We call upon the government of Iran to participate constructively in international efforts for peace and stability and to modify its behaviour contrary to these objectives, inter alia with regard to terrorism," the summit statement said.

The G-7 said it would continue to work towards GATT membership for Russia. But Russia's standing with the G-7 remains a sensitive issue. The Western powers have made clear that Russia's weak economic disqualifies it from full G-7 status, so Boris Yeltsin did not attend the group's economic debate.

The G-7 said it was determined to ratify the GATT Uruguay Round trade treaty and establish the world trade organisation by next Jan. 1.

The leaders resolved to continue the momentum of trade liberalisation and encouraged the organisation for economic cooperation and development to develop rules to remove obstacles to foreign direct investment.

The G-7 and Russia called for a halt to the civil war in Rwanda and more urgent efforts to ease suffering in the Central African state. The summit leaders said they were painfully aware of the humanitarian

tragedy affecting many African countries and promised to do their utmost to help them.

The G-7 and Russia called for the international community to put pressure on Haiti's military rulers to give up power.

The G-7 stressed the need for a positive outcome of the Cairo population conference since rapid population growth is aggravating poverty in many developing countries.

The Paris Club will be asked to grant more generous debt relief to those countries facing special difficulties. (Britain and France said two-thirds of official debt can now be written off, up from 50 per cent).

The G-7 leaders recognised the need to speed up the implementation of national plans called for under the Rio de Janeiro climate treaty and agreed to take stock at next year's summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

At next year's summit, the G-7 agreed to look at the institutions that will be needed to meet the global economic challenges of the 21st century.

Sanaa controls last southern base

(Continued from page 1)

eastern regions for them.

After government troops entered Aden, the city was ravaged by looting, mainly done by the local population, which targeted government institutions, shops and businesses.

Foreign diplomats, requesting anonymity, said U.N. offices and vehicles were looted Saturday, while the British embassy in Sanaa said the consulate in Aden had been taken over by the northern army.

Aden, a city of 350,000 inhabitants that lost hundreds in the siege and the northern shelling, slowly began to recover after weeks of siege by northern forces. Northerners have brought food and water to the city in the last three days.

A U.N. spokesman in Sanaa, Najib Fijili, said U.N. agencies brought large quantities of high-energy biscuits

for children and 11 tonnes of essential medical supplies to treat the wounded.

Fighting broke out May 4 after months of vicious quarrels between Mr. Saleh, a northerner, and Mr. Beidh, his former vice president, over the future of their 4-year-old merger of North Yemen and South Yemen.

Mr. Beidh declared the south's secession, but gained no international recognition although Saudi Arabia and Gulf Arab states have been accused by the north of helping him financially.

Mr. Saleh met with Saudi Ambassador Ali Al Qofaidi on Sunday and handed him a message to King Fahd calling on the Saudi monarch to "forget the past and open a new page in bilateral ties based on good neighbourly relations and cooperation," an official announcement said.

Former South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mobam

mad, whose loyalists in the southern army were instrumental in facilitating the northern victory, urged government leaders to mend fences with southern rivals and the Arab states who backed them.

He said from his Damascus exile that an amnesty declared by Sanaa was a good first step to overcoming the painful ordeal that befell our people," according to Syria's state run news agency.

Southern Yemeni "vice president" Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, who fled to Saudi Arabia after the fall of Aden, on Sunday warned foreign companies operating in the south not to do business with the authorities in Sanaa.

Mr. Jifri told the London-based Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that southern leaders would prevent deals with Sanaa "by all possible means."

"We warn all companies operating in the south of Yemen that resources from our territory belong to the Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR)," declared by the south on May 21, he said.

Any transaction with Sanaa concerning "resources taken from our territory," would be "illegal and hostile to the people of southern Yemen," he said.

"We will have the right to prevent, by all possible means and at any cost, all investment agreements over oil, mining, agriculture and industry as well as fishing, which foreign companies sign with Sanaa."

The YDR "remains an authority both inside and outside the country and represents national legitimacy," Mr. Jifri said.

He also called on the international community to prosecute northern "war criminals" who, he said, continued "thefts, pillage, destruction of property and execution without trial of thousands" of southerners.

Asked about Sanaa's call for the release of 1,200 northern prisoners, Mr. Jifri said: "If there were prisoners, they must be in Sanaa's hands by now."

Yemen thanks Jordan for stand

(Continued from page 1)

Socialist Party, he said, noting that it was known about the Yemenis that they solve their problems through dialogue. "But unfortunately, this crisis went beyond the circle of dialogue to the cycle of violence and now we should overcome its consequences and go back to what the others knew about us by resorting to dialogue," he said.

Dr. Iryani repeated that a general amnesty declared by Sanaa after the southern stronghold of Aden fell to northern troops on Thursday "was meant for all citizens, even those who took part in the plot against the legal powers."

Dr. Iryani, whom government sources have tipped as the head of a new government of national unity after the 10-week civil war, had been holding talks with southern Yemeni officials in New York under U.N. auspices.

After northern troops seized Aden and the port city of Mukalla, southern leaders fled the country.

Dr. Iryani said: "The

Southern leaders will not be able to form a government in exile, for such a government would need backing from abroad and the Yemenis are not used to counting on others."

He also called on all Yemenis to help rebuild the country to recover from the war which erupted on May 5.

He said Yemeni-Saudi relations were normal and "not as the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations."

He said there were no prisoners of war in Yemen, pointing out that there were 3,700 prisoners of conscience detained by the secessionist forces in Aden and they were immediately released. In addition, he added, there were more than 10,000 citizens in Hadramawt governorate who were detained because they refused to join the army. They were also released, he said.

Dr. Iryani was received at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Yemeni Ambassador in Amman Ali Abu Lahhoum.

Gaza Strip

(Continued from page 1)

bombes for about 60 days this year.

"The city is paralysed," said Mayor Mustafa Natche. "The freedom of the city residents has been seized for a pretext of security."

Israel clamped a curfew on the city of 110,000 Thursday after Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli car outside the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, killing a 17-year-old settler girl.

Mr. Natche pointed out that the same day the body of an Israeli soldier was found at a West Bank village of Akeb. The village was under curfew for only two hours, he said.

Hebron, however, has been under curfew since Thursday and no one knows when the restrictions will be lifted.

The army said the curfew was imposed to aid soldiers searching for the assailants and to reduce friction between Jews and Arabs in the city and the surrounding area that has been the site of many attacks on both Arabs and Israelis in the past year.

The Israeli government decided Sunday to remove Jewish settlers from apartments they illegally occupied in Kiryat Arba, officials said.

Smooth transition seen

(Continued from page 1)

was the first time since Kim Il-Sung died on Friday at the age of 82 of a heart attack that the title had been applied to his son.

The reclusive communist state on Saturday announced the death of Kim Il-Sung, who commanded his people for nearly half a century with an iron fist.

Israel to propose pockets

(Continued from page 1)

predicted a protracted timetable on any troop withdrawal and said the sides should for now concentrate on a limited transfer of civilian powers instead.

The talks will coincide with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's preparations to return for good to Gaza and Jericho. He is due to quit the PLO's Tunis headquarters Monday.

In Paris on Thursday, Israeli and PLO leaders said they had made progress on extending Palestinian self-rule and announced that negotiations would resume in Cairo, where the May 4 accord was signed.

Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres received a U.N. peace prize there.

Reuters

TOKYO — Kim Il-Sung, the leader of Communist North Korea since 1948, defied the collapse of Communism in Europe to keep an iron grip on his secretive nation as its political isolation deepened.

Kim, who died on Friday at the age of 82, was the world's longest-serving absolute ruler and established a personality cult far exceeding that of Josef Stalin or Mao Tse-tung.

When news of his death was broadcast on North Korean radio on Saturday, stunned residents of his capital, Pyongyang, stopped and wept in the streets.

Kim's hold on power was so strong he survived the collapse of Communism in Europe, in Mongolia and finally in the Soviet Union, the cradle of Bolshevism, which installed him in power in 1948 and was his principal supporter for 40 years.

But his final years were marked by economic and diplomatic defeats at the hands of bitter rival South Korea, and a growing crisis over his suspected nuclear weapons development plans.

Building on its remarkable economic growth in the 1970s and 1980s, Seoul embarked on a policy of wooing Kim's Communist allies with loans and technology, leading to diplomatic relations with most of them. In 1988, nearly all of them ignored his boycott call and took part in the Seoul Olympics.

Seoul's greatest triumph came with the establishment of ties with Moscow in 1990. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo in 1991, the first visit by a Soviet leader to the peninsula. None ever went to Pyongyang.

East European nations hurried to send ambassadors to Seoul, and Moscow's trade with the booming south grew rapidly.

To offset the diplomatic losses, Kim opened talks in late 1990 on normalising relations with Japan, previously one of the capitalist demons in his ideology.

But the talks were stymied by Tokyo's demand that North Korea allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities, and by its refusal to meet a North

Kim Il-Sung fostered unrivalled personality cult

Korean demand to pay compensation for the damage Pyongyang says it suffered from being ostracised by Japan since 1945.

The nuclear issue was also taken up by South Korea, the United States and other Western countries, alarmed that such an unstable regime, implicated in international terrorism in the 1980s, should possess nuclear weapons.

After Pyongyang threatened in March 1993, to pull out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty rather than allow inspections, the confrontation worsened.

By June 1994, the United States and Seoul were leading a drive to slap North Korea with economic sanctions in an effort to force Kim to come clean on his nuclear ambitions.

Then suddenly, after months of bellicose bluster, Kim deftly defused the immediate crisis by telling visiting former U.S. President Jimmy Carter he was ready to compromise.

He won agreement for high-level diplomatic talks with the United States, and offered an unprecedented summit meeting with the leader of the hated anti-Communist South Korean state, President Kim Young-Sam. They were to have met on July 25.

Despite the collapse of Soviet communism, and the ominous absorption of Socialist East Germany into the capitalist West, Kim Il-Sung hung on determinedly to power. Further enforcing North Korea's isolation from outside ideologies and influences, he fought to preserve his brand of Communism from contagion.

Rare visitors reported that citizens had never heard a Beatles song, sipped a coke or seen pictures of Neil Armstrong on the moon.

"Even George Orwell could not have imagined this world," said a Western diplomat based there.

Yet some in the Pyongyang leadership, at least,

realised change was essential if the state was to remain viable.

Starting in 1992, the government unveiled a series of economic open-door measures along the lines of China's 1980s reforms in hopes of attracting foreign investment and technology transfers. Given the tensions generated by the nuclear confrontation, however, there were few takers.

Put in power by Moscow and sustained through the early years of his rule by Chinese troops, Kim continually played the two Communist giants against each other to ensure North Korea retained some freedom to manoeuvre on the world stage.

His forces invaded South Korea in June, 1950, and occupied almost the entire southern half of the peninsula before U.S.-led United Nations troops landed and fought them to a stalemate.

By the time the two sides had agreed to a truce in 1953, the Korean war had cost three million lives. Without a formal peace treaty, North-South tensions remained high. North Korea maintains a huge standing army and regularly spends more than a fifth of its gross domestic product on the military.

Despite Pyongyang's growing political isolation in recent years, a flagging economy and a continuing loss of political, military and economic ground to Seoul, Kim's own prestige in his "hermit kingdom" apparently remained intact to the end.

The extraordinary Kim Il-Sung cult, which has completely dominated the lives of his 22 million subjects for decades, showed no signs of flagging.

North Korea's media and officials routinely ascribed superhuman powers to Kim, referring to him in such terms as "the sun of mankind who illuminates the world."

From the 1970s, Kim groomed his son Kim Jong-Il to succeed him in an



Kim Il-Sung

attempt to create the first Communist dynasty.

By 1991, Western diplomats in Pyongyang said the son, regularly lauded as the "dear leader," was in charge of the day-to-day running of the country, but not diplomacy. Little is known about Kim Jong-Il, who is not known to have visited any country in the world except China.

Portraits of President Kim, "the great leader" are everywhere, on buildings, on badges worn by all officials and in virtually every office and home in the country.

His writings, collected in 27 thick volumes, dominate the education of students from kindergarten to university and his birthplace has become a shrine.

The highly sanitised press contains little more than endless tributes to Kim and his son. Radios generally have fixed dials so people cannot tune into foreign or South Korean stations.

The official biography says Kim was born Kim Song-Chu into a peasant family at Mangyongdae, near Pyongyang, on April 15, 1912, two years after Japan annexed the Korean

peninsula.

At 13 he is said to have taken the name of Kim Il-Sung, a legendary anti-Japanese resistance fighter, and crossed the border to begin revolutionary activities in Manchuria, now part of northeast China but then occupied by Japan.

At 14, he organised the down with imperialism union and in 1932 formed an anti-Japanese guerrilla army, the biography says.

Exaggerated reports of his guerrilla exploits, fanned by big rewards offered by the Japanese for his capture, spread throughout Korea, ensuring his fame and eventual leadership.

Kim became head of two communist-sponsored organisations in Manchuria in the mid-1930s, which led him to undergo military and political training in the Soviet Union.

As leader of the anti-Japanese resistance, Kim was a captain in the Soviet Red Army when Japan surrendered in 1945.

In September, 1948, when Soviet troops withdrew from the North, Kim set up the Democratic People's Republic, matching the birth of the U.S.-supported republic of Korea in the south.

His official biography credits him with "converting our country from backwardness into a Socialist industrial state with modern industry and advanced agriculture."

In the 1950s and 1960s, the North's economy advanced faster than the South's, only to stagnate in the 1970s while the South's took off.

Kim Il-Sung never saw the realisation of his dream of a reunified Korea, despite years of on-and-off talks and dozens of proposals by both sides.

Kim Il-Sung married twice. His first wife, who bore him two sons and a daughter, died in 1949. In 1950 he married Kim Seong-Ae, who chairs the country's women's league. They are said to have two sons and three daughters.

Cairo conference links population, and sustainable development

MILLIONS of women worldwide do not have access to quality reproductive health care; millions of individuals and couples have inadequate access to safe and affordable family planning methods, or lack information about available services. Meeting these needs would save lives and greatly improve the quality of life for many, while helping to reduce the rapid population growth that is impeding development and straining the resource base in many parts of the world.

In this context, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be convened by the United Nations in Cairo, Egypt, from Sept. 5-13, 1994, will outline a plan of action linking population, economic growth and sustainable development. The aims will be twofold: more effective local action to meet individual needs and aspirations, especially those of women, and more effective national policies and programmes to bring population into balance with available resources.

World population, now nearly 5.7 billion, is growing faster than ever before. Nearly all of the current annual increase of some 93 million people is occurring in developing countries. By 2025, according to United Nations projections, the total will have grown to between 7.9 billion and 9.1 billion, with 8.5 billion considered the most likely figure. In any event, for decades to come, growing populations will put increasing pressure on the environment and hinder countries' efforts to provide employment, housing and social services to their citizens.

The severity of this population impact will ultimately hinge on how quickly the existing unmet need for family planning services can be met, bringing fertility rates — the number of children born to a typical

woman — down to manageable levels. This situation calls for concerted action to combat poverty, associated with high fertility, and to improve overall living standards through sustained economic growth. It also calls for making safe and effective family planning services available to all who want them.

ICPD will build on the rich experience of national population policies and programmes. During the past 20 years, such programmes have dramatically increased contraceptive use and substantially reduced fertility rates in a number of developing countries. In many other countries, however, particularly the least developed ones, the transition to lower fertility has only just begun.

Underlying the conference emphasis on "choices and responsibilities" is the international consensus, first articulated in 1968, that family planning is a human right — that individuals and couples have the right "freely and responsibly to decide the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so." Other principles such as opposition to discrimination and coercion, protection of vulnerable groups, national sovereignty and the right to development will help shape the agenda.

Conference preparations

Advance efforts for ICPD are being guided by a preparatory committee which includes all countries. At its second session in May 1993, the committee asked the conference secretariat to prepare a draft of the conference recommendations. This draft will be debated at the preparatory committee's third and final session in April 1994.

The Cairo action plan will draw upon the World Population Plan of Action

adopted at the 1974 World Population Conference and the additional recommendations adopted by the 1984 International Conference on Population, among others, but will stand on its own. It will include a statement of principles, projections of future population growth, and a set of 20-year goals for population, maternal mortality, infant mortality, life expectancy, education (especially for girls and women), gender equality and contraceptive use. Population goals will reflect particular regional and national conditions, and be based on freedom of reproductive choice.

Separate chapters in the document will describe the major population and development issues that need to be addressed, and will offer recommendations for action at the local, national and international levels. These issues include:

— The close links between population, the environment and economic growth, and the need to take population factors into account in planning for sustainable development.

— Gender equality and women's empowerment. These are central concerns of ICPD in their own right, and, additionally, because improving women's status, educational levels and employment prospects also help to reduce fertility levels.

— The varied roles, composition and structure of the family, the social institution within which most child-bearing and child-rearing occur.

— The rapid growth of world population, the diversity among and within regions in growth rates and distribution, the challenges posed by the high proportion of young people in many countries' populations, and the growing numbers of elderly people in developing countries.

— Reproductive rights, and provision of voluntary reproductive health org-

rammes and family planning, encompassing such issues as adolescent sexuality, abortion, and sexually-transmitted disease including HIV/AIDS.

— Internal shifts of population due to rural/urban inequity, and the resulting explosion of urban growth.

— International migration, its causes and effects, and the protection of the rights of documented and undocumented migrants and refugees.

Discussions at the preparatory committee's second session revealed considerable consensus on many of these issues; ongoing discussions in the months leading up to the third session will attempt to deepen agreement on others.

The Cairo document will also detail the actions and financial resources needed to implement the recommendations. It will stress the need for research and training, and for information, education and communication to raise public awareness of population and development issues.

There is widespread agreement that domestic and international spending on population activities need to increase, and that governments, local communities, non-governmental organisations and the private sector should be partners in population and development efforts. Determining the levels of international assistance required to help developing countries meet their population and development goals will be another focus of ongoing discussions.

Prior to the second preparatory committee session, five regional conferences — for Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and North America, the Arab World, and Latin America and the Caribbean — were held to review population and development policies and programmes and issue recommendations for ICPD.

For instance, the African countries adopted a declaration calling on governments to accord high priority to population matters, with the aim of reducing annual population growth in the region from 3 per cent in 1992 to 2 per cent by 2010.

Recommendations

Six meeting of technical experts have issued findings on groups of related issues: population, environment and development; population policies and programmes; population and women; family planning, health and family well-being; population growth and demographic structure; and population distribution and migration. The recommendations of the regional conferences and expert group meetings, along with inputs from the second session of the preparatory committee and the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly, will be taken into account in preparing the draft Cairo document.

In addition, governments, United Nations organisations, foundations and private groups are organising a series of round table meetings of experts to illuminate key issues including: women's perspectives on family planning, reproductive health and reproductive rights; the demographic and health impact of the AIDS epidemic; population and development; population, environment and sustainable development; and population and communication.

In more than 100 countries, national committees have begun drafting national population reports to present at ICPD. Over 400 non-governmental organisations are also playing an important role in conference preparations, gaining accreditation and offering their perspectives on the major issues to be addressed.

ICPD Secretariat.

Big losses as well as big gains possible in 'emerging markets,' IFC survey says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investors in the "emerging markets" of countries with new stock exchanges can make a lot of money — or they can lose it, according to a survey made public Sunday.

"There is money to be made in the long term," said Iyad Malas, who manages a data base on 73 stock markets for the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC).

"But if you expect to make 100 per cent in a year, that's gambling," he said.

A bold investor who put \$100 into the average Polish stock at the start of 1993 would have come out with \$717.90 on Dec. 31, according to the IFC's "emerging Markets Fact Book — 1994."

So far this year, however, prices on the new exchange have dipped 38.1 per cent.

There would have been an average pay-off of \$213.70 last year on a stock investment of \$100 in Turkey, and more than 100 per cent gains in the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

Those figures look good to speculators alongside a mere seven per cent in the United States, or even the 24.6 per cent in Japan and 33.6 per cent in Germany.

Stocks in Zimbabwe went

up 122.5 per cent in 1993, but that was after a plunge of 59.75 per cent in 1992.

And anyone daring enough to invest in Iranian stocks last year would have been almost wiped out — an average loss of 96.7 per cent. Losses in Jamaica averaged 57.4 per cent, after stocks there more than tripled in value the year before.

The 1993 loss in China was smaller, only 7.5 per cent, but it was over 10 per cent in another half dozen countries.

All in all, 1993 was a record year in rises in emerging markets. The overall increase in value of stocks watched by the IFC amounted to nearly \$2 for every \$3 invested.

The fact book adds that many observers concluded those levels of profit could not be maintained — and they were not.

"In early 1994, corrections began in overvalued emerging markets," the book says. "First in Asia, then in Latin America and Europe, enthusiasm waned as prices dropped sharply."

Mr. Malas said in an interview that the biggest drops this year have been in countries whose markets did well last year. They include Thai-

land, which had a 978 per cent rise, and Malaysia, which had been up 99.5 per cent.

"Now the correction have been made and investors are finding some attractive buys," Mr. Malas said.

The fact book says such corrections of high prices tend to be healthy, leading to more realistic valuations and encouraging investors to look at the long term.

Once an investor adjusts for additional risks, these markets offer attractive returns, it adds.

Some of the risks can be calculated by comparing how much prices jump up and down on these markets, compared with what happens on more placid exchanges. But Mr. Malas said it was too early for this kind of measurement in such countries as Russia and China, because data are needed for five years.

Five years ago, Russia had nothing resembling a stock market and Mr. Malas said figures from China cover only about a year and a half.

What cannot be measured, he pointed out, are the risks of political change that could send prices plunging — or soaring.

South Asia finance ministers discuss poverty

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for cooperation Sunday from South Asian countries fighting the region's chronic poverty and the related problems of hunger, overpopulation and environmental abuse.

"Poverty in the region is still the main concern," she said at the opening of a two-day meeting of finance ministers from countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"Under its shadow, environmental degradation, higher population problems and widespread hunger, persistently haunt," she said.

SAARC consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Ms. Khaleda said the introduction of free market economies and the adoption of privatisation policies by countries in the region, including Bangladesh, had created a greater scope for cooperation.

But she noted past efforts to alleviate poverty had been hindered by social conflicts, unrest and terrorism. In addition, large numbers of the poverty stricken had suffered from natural calamities, she said.

"Unfortunately, so far we have had limited success individually and collectively in tackling these problems," Ms. Khaleda said.

A senior government official said Saturday the meeting would try to formulate a joint strategy to help South Asia's growing ranks of poor people.

Lutfullah Majid, a secretary in the Bangladesh finance ministry, said the meeting would discuss anti-poverty projects adopted by member countries and set out a "poor action plan" to aid up to 300 million people.

Indian Finance Minister Mammohan Singh, who is attending the meeting, said Saturday the countries in the region should attempt to cut defence spending to divert funds to fight poverty and boost economic growth.

He said India had kept its defence spending "at the minimum under the given security environment."

Pakistan's Economic Affairs Adviser V.A. Zafary said "regional cooperation was dogged by suspicion and lack of understanding."

Mistrust and bilateral issues obstruct the process of cooperation. But in the long run we will reach the goal," he told reporters.

Kuwait's Future Generations Reserves sought to cover deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government has proposed a law to allow it to use money set aside for future generations to cover its budget deficits, the newspaper Al Qabas said Sunday.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah submitted to parliament a proposal for a law that would allow the government to withdraw funds from the Future Generations Reserves to cover the state budget deficit, Al Qabas reported.

Under the proposed law the government would be able to use the fund, which comprises most of Kuwait's overseas assets, to cover deficits over five years starting 1993/94.

Kuwait's hedge against the day its oil runs out, the fund was launched by a 1976 decree committing the state to inject 10 per cent of its revenues into it and banning withdrawals from it.

But the fund's value, estimated at about \$100 billion before Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait, has now been halved.

During the occupation, the government-in-exile had to rely on it to provide costs associated with the Gulf war, including a \$20 billion payment towards Operation Desert Storm in which the U.S.-led allies drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Further billions have had to be spent on oil sector repairs.

The government said it needed to use the fund because of an "unexpected fall in the oil prices" and the financial burdens resulting from the Iraqi occupation. Al Qabas reported.

"It has become difficult to provide the funds necessary to cover the large state expenditure by depending on the state general reserves," it quoted the proposal's explanatory memorandum as saying.

The emirate's 1993/94 budget deficit has been officially estimated at 1.223 billion dinars (\$4.1 billion).

The government's proposed 1994/95 budget would leave a net deficit of 1.853

billion (\$6.28 billion) though the government and parliament's economic affairs committee agreed last week on cuts of 350 million dinars (\$1.18 billion).

The Al Shall Consultancy said Saturday that the deficit cut plan was not enough to save the emirate from future financial problems and described it as a modest effort.

The economic committee of the emirate's Supreme Planning Council said that without reforming the state-orchestrated economy the budget deficit would grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 and the dinar would be seriously affected.

Finance Minister Nasser al Rodhan said Saturday the emirate plans a gradual reduction in its budget deficit to zero by the year 2000.

Any spending cuts will be politically sensitive. Kuwaitis are accustomed to an all-encompassing welfare state that provides public services free or at minimal cost and government jobs for virtually all nationals who want one.

Dollar expected to fall today after G-7 inaction

LONDON (AFP) — The dollar was likely to take a further fall on world exchange markets Monday, after the Group of Seven (G-7) summit this weekend took no steps to protect it, but London analysts said they did not expect to see a dramatic plunge.

The G-7 economic statement issued Saturday in Naples made no mention of the dollar, which has been plummeting in world markets despite central bank intervention. U.S. officials said the dollar should be judged on the basis of overall economic performance, which was healthy.

"It was expected they wouldn't talk about the dollar," commented Peter Luxton, analyst at Barclays Bank. "Last week monetary authorities kept repeating there was nothing to expect from the Naples summit, so the market is probably not too surprised."

All the same, "there had been short coverings ahead of the weekend and they are probably going to close these positions on Monday," he added.

Christian Dunis, economist at Chemical Bank, felt G-7's inaction "will not provoke a dramatic plunge of the dollar but will maintain pressure on the greenback in the coming weeks."

The U.S. currency could fall to 1.55 German marks Monday and continue heading for 1.50 marks, he said.

The dollar had fallen to 1.5580 marks in London Friday evening, its lowest rate since April 1993. Against the Japanese yen, the historic low of 95 yen seemed to hold.

Analysts say the market should show some caution ahead of publication of U.S. inflation figures Tuesday and Wednesday as high inflation could prompt the Federal Reserve (Fed) central bank to raise interest rates, especially after the marked fall in U.S. unemployment announced Friday.

"The Fed needs to put up its rates, but it wants to do it on domestic considerations and doesn't want to be seen as only trying to support the dollar," the inflation numbers "could give it a good pretext," said Mr. Luxton.

The market is expecting price rises of between 0.2 and 0.3 per cent for June. If inflation reaches 0.4 per cent "the Fed could push up its interest rates and the shock could allow the dollar to bounce back," said Mr. Dunis.

An increase of a quarter to a half percentage point in the interbank rate, currently at 4.25 per cent, "is already more of less taken into account by the market," said Mr. Dunis. "It will take an increase of at least three-quarters to have an effect on the dollar."

Commentators do not rule out the possibility that the Americans obtained prom-

ises from their G-7 partners about a new central bank intervention.

On June 27, 17 central banks intervened together on the world currency markets by buying dollars, but failed to rally the currency.

"If the plunge should get out of hand, the central banks could intervene again to reduce market volatility," said Mr. Dunis.

Mr. Luxton felt the G-7 inaction could increase volatility, however.

Egyptian parties set terms for privatisation

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's political parties have set conditions for privatisation and said the government might have to slow the pace of privatisation in order to meet them.

The economic committee of a multiparty "national dialogue" said the privatisation programme should ensure:

— That Egyptians continue to own key sectors of the economy and that there are rules for bringing in foreigners

— That public sector companies are sold at a fair price and essentially through the stock exchange.

That the rights of workers in the companies are respected.

"Those meetings were of the opinion that adhering to these principles may sometimes require extending the period needed for transferring ownership of public projects to the private sector," the committee's report said.

"In this case efforts should concentrate on improving the efficiency of these projects," it added.

The government says it already observes these three principles in its privatisation programme, which has begun to pick up speed after a slow start.

So far assets worth billions of dollars have been offered for sale but only three companies have in fact been transferred to private ownership.

The report said only one of the parties, the leftist Tagammu Party, opposed the whole principle of privatisation, saying the government should instead reform the public sector.

Analysts: Crude oil price set to fall vs products

AMSTERDAM (R) — Crude oil prices are too high relative to oil products like gasoline and diesel and will almost certainly fall over the next few weeks, oil analysts and dealers have said.

World crude oil prices have risen by more than \$4 a barrel since March and the benchmark North Sea Brent blend now stands around \$17.25.

But prices of many oil products have risen much more modestly and refiners' profits have been squeezed in the middle.

"Refiners' margins are depressed and runs will have to be cut — that will put downward pressure on crude prices," said Steve Turner, analyst at Momura Research Institute in London.

Elizabeth Horne, analyst at Wood Mackenzie Consultants in Edinburgh agreed: "Crude oil prices have raced away with insufficient backing from oil products markets. This is unusual for the time of year and I would expect a correction."

Analysts say crude and products markets have be-

come dislocated in recent months.

Crude oil prices have reflected short-term squeezes in local markets and optimism over longer-term world oil supply-demand, while oil products prices have been depressed by economic recession and relatively high stocks in the West.

European gas oil (diesel and heating oil) prices are now at their lowest level versus Brent since before the Gulf war at a premium of around \$3.00 a barrel and the comparable product-crude spread is just as weak in the U.S. and Asia.

Even U.S. gasoline prices, which are traditionally high at this time of year and were very strong all through the spring, have begun to fall against U.S. light crude oil (WTI) prices.

"Part of the reason is that WTI has been overvalued in the U.S. due to a recent squeeze in the American Midwest," said Mr. Turner. "WTI prices have tended to reflect local supply tightness while overall U.S. supply has been good."

"Brent is also artificially high in the prompt position," said one London-based crude oil trader. "I think the market got a bit carried away by their enthusiasm with OPEC's last oil production agreement and has forgotten the fundamentals."

Tony Machacek, futures broker at Credit Lyonnais Rouse, said the gap between futures prices of oil products and crude (the crack spreads) were bound to widen in the next few weeks.

"Crack spreads have looked undervalued for quite some time and it's difficult to see them staying this low for long," he said. "Over the next two months I would look to see the IPE (International Petroleum Exchange) gas oil-Brent crack go out to at least \$3.50 to \$4.00 a barrel, possibly a lot more, from \$3.00 now."

Gijs van Dam, broker at Smith Barney Netherlands in Amsterdam said the fate of crude oil prices would be determined by the world's refiners.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Love doesn't last forever... so you have to make a fresh supply every day!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TESED

SEGUS

PINGRY

NARXLY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the sentence answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

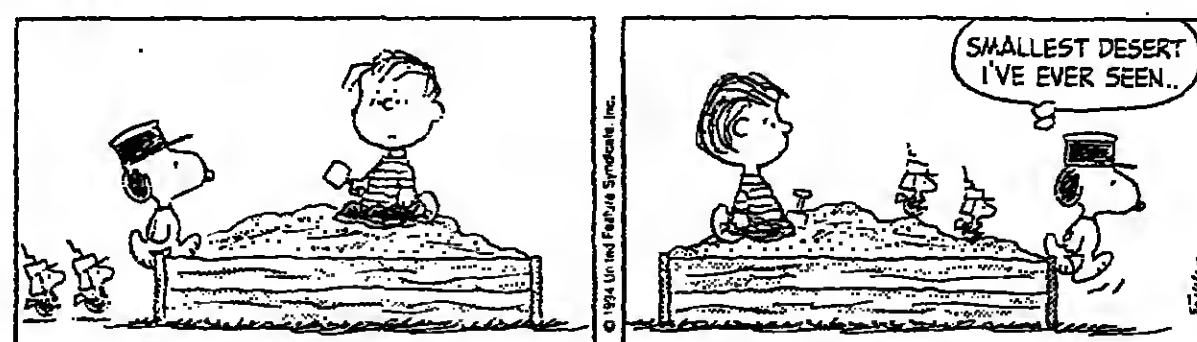
ANSWER: "IT'S A REAL GEM USED ON THE KNITTED SWEATER."

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LLAMA LINEN GIBSON GAUDUS

Answer: What the prisoners played in the exercise yard. — CNN GAMES

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A new approach to old ideas makes things in general work out more successfully. Be logical. Make time for personal pleasure and go ahead with your vacation commitment that isn't dependent upon others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Do nothing that could cause a severance of connections with an associate. Be sure to keep an important appointment with a bigwig.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Concentrate on the future and then make concrete plans to improve it. Take modern treatments to improve your health and appearance.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try a new approach with friends and reach a better understanding with them. Know what is expected of you by associates and close friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have to be tactful and clear thinking to patch up a problem of long standing. Take no risks with money at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get along better with associates by adopting a new attitude. Take no chances with one who has harmed you in the past.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Study your duties well and figure out a way to handle them more efficiently. Don't do anything which could anger a loved one.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Use a different approach in a civil matter and get excellent results. Avoid one who is detrimental to your best interests.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make tasks a keynote in your activities today and accomplish a great deal. No good day to engage in new outlets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be extra patient in the face of any pressure today and you win out. Strive for greater prestige in civic matters you are involved in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your monetary progress is better now than for some time so make the most of this now. Obtain data you need from the right sources.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use good judgement in the handling of problems connected with regular routines. Come to a better understanding with a loved one.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your monetary progress is better now than for some time so make the most of this now. Obtain data you need from the right sources.

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray

ACROSS

1 Say

5 Sermons

8 Isolated rock

13 Fragrant

14 Curving

15 Pre part

16 Christmas

DOWN

2 Come

3 (happy)

4 Leaves out

6 Cows often

7 Am at

9 Kind of wrestling

10 Cat

11 Cad

12 Pre-dawn

13 Curving

14 Curving

15 Pre part

16 Christmas

17 Old Greek

18 Curving

19 Curving

20 Curving

21 Curving

22 Curving

23 Curving

24 Curving

25 Curving

26 Curving

27 Curving

28 Curving

29 Curving

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60 Curving

Brazil win thriller against the Dutch

DALLAS, Texas — In a pulsating thriller, a minute second-half Brazil overcame the Netherlands 3-2 here Saturday to book a World Cup semi-final berth against either Romania or Sweden in Los Angeles.

It is the first time for 16 years the three-time world champions have made it through to the final four, a fact not lost on the team's often-criticized coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"I am super happy. For the first time in so many years Brazil is back in the semifinals of the World Cup," said Parreira, who was roundly booed by the Brazilian fans before the match.

"The fans should feel thankful to have seen such a match. We have only two games left now," added the confident Parreira.

Left-back Branco, recalled for the suspended Leonardo, smashed in a 30-metre free-kick winner 10 minutes from time after the Netherlands had pulled back a two-goal deficit.

Romario and Bebeto had put the triple world champions ahead but Dennis Bergkamp made it 2-1 and Aron Winter headed a 76th minute equaliser.

Brazil had only conceded one goal in their four previous games and it was a close run thing for the Brazilians who were trying to avenge

their defeat by the Dutch 20 years ago when they last met in the tournament.

A flash of Brazilian magic in the 51st minute set up the start of the goal feast that had the 60,000 plus crowd enthralled.

An 30-metre pass from Aldair to Bebeto on the left caught the Dutch defence flat-footed and before they knew what was happening the ball was at the feet of Romario who shot past a helpless Ed De Goey.

It was exactly the start Brazil wanted after a listless opening 45 minutes that saw both teams struggle to try and put anything together.

Four minutes after Romario's goal Bebeto nearly made it two when he cut into the box on the right but his shot, which had De Goey well beaten, caught the far post and went out for a goal-kick.

Bebeto finally got the goal he deserved in the 62nd minute when he ran onto Branco's header, slipped a sliding tackle from Dutch hard man Jan Wouters, rounded De Goey and coolly slipped the ball home.

He was joined by Mazinho and Romario on the sidelines and all three cradled their arms and made a rocking motion to celebrate Bebeto's new baby.

"That goal was for my new son, who was born only two days ago," said Romario afterwards.

Despite Brazil's quick one-two the Dutch, still looking for their first ever World Cup trophy, managed to silence the tens of thousands of samba-dancing Brazilian fans in the Cotton Bowl when Bergkamp pulled one back.

Bergkamp, who has been the Netherlands' most dangerous striker in the tournament, got between two defenders on the left inside the box and made no mistake as he hit it past a diving Taffarel.

The goal spurred the Netherlands forward and Brazil's defence started to crack. During a stoppage for an injury to Bebeto, Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira took the time to tell his captain Dunga in no uncertain terms to tighten things up at the back.

But despite the orders the Dutch continued to pile the pressure on and a vicious 30 metre shot from Winter forced a great diving save from Taffarel. It was his first save since the last group match with Sweden.

Minutes later Dunga, unable to keep up with Wim Jonk as he broke for goal, was forced to grab the Dutchman's jersey and collect a yellow card.

The Brazilian defence finally cracked when from a Marc Overmars corner Winter powered home a header to level the score.

Now the Dutch fans were in full voice in a match that had turned into a thriller-minute as both sides desperately searched for the winner. Even the sun, which had been hidden by storm clouds that had swept into the area early in the morning, suddenly came out.

But Branco silenced them in the 80th minute and put Brazil back in front with a blistering 30-metre free-kick that flashed between two players, unslighting the unfortunate De Goey.

The free kick was awarded when Branco collapsed theatrically under a challenge from Jonk and Winter.

"I trust my goal will finally shut-up my critics," said Branco afterwards. "The goal allowed me to repay my teammates who have stood by me."

"I am by nature an optimist and I showed today I am fit enough to be part of the starting team. I'm thrilled we're going to Los Angeles," he added.

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Now if Spain had had a Romario or Bebeto, it would almost certainly have been Italy going home instead.

With just three minutes to go and Spain dominating and missing chances in Saturday's World Cup quarterfinal, Italy once again proved how lethal it can be given even the most minute opportunity.

On a midfield breakaway, Roberto Baggio burst through to score the winner and send the Spaniards packing on the end of a 2-1 loss.

Four minutes earlier gangly striker Julio Salinas had only Italian goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca to beat from seven metres out.

He fumbled and Spain threw away its chance to go into the lead and secure its first semifinal berth since 1950.

Once again the Spaniards let slip a golden chance to live up to its name as a true soccer power and knock Italy from its throne.

The comparison with hotly favoured Barcelona getting massacred 4-0 by AC Milan in the prized European Champions Cup in May was not lost on anyone.

Spain lacked that final killer blow. They lacked someone who could be guaranteed to puncture the Italians when it was most needed. Someone like Brazil's Romario or Bebeto, Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov, or Italy's Baggio.

This was Spain's third time to get stuck at the quarterfinal stage in nine World Cup appearances. Depression was huge in the Spanish camp as it dawned on them just how close they had been.

"This was a fabulous opportunity," said midfielder Andoni Goikoetxea. "I think it will be a long time before we get another one like it."

Salinas and goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta were two of the most criticized squad choices by coach Javier Clemente and some feel it was these two who lost the game.

"It would not be fair to blame Salinas. We have to be comprehensive when people make mistakes," said Clemente afterwards. "I still don't understand it, Salinas doesn't normally miss sitters like that but today he was unlucky."

The player himself felt luck had deserted him. "The goalkeeper came out well but with the ball bounce

pressed by Baggio. He has scored two important goals, but he has missed some good chances. And when he goes one-on-one he does not have the skill to beat the player."

He said most of the teams remaining in the tournament were capable of reaching the final, with perhaps the exception of Bulgaria, but he plumped for Sweden to meet Italy because of their all-round balance.

"They are good enough to beat anyone, and they have a good balance throughout the team. Martin Dahlin is good with the ball in the box and is scoring goals, and they always pose a danger in midfield, where they are very creative," he said.

Stefan Schwarz and Jonas Thern are very strong defensively in midfield, and they play a flat back four zonal defence which is much harder to break down than man-marking.

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Italy will make final, says Norway coach

DALLAS (R) — Italy will reach the World Cup final, where they will probably meet Sweden, predicts Norway coach Egil Olsen.

But although Roberto Baggio's late goals against Spain in Saturday's quarterfinal and against Nigeria have earned Italy a place in the semifinals, Olsen, recognised as a shrewd tactician, says he has not been impressed with the European player of the year.

"Italy played very well against us, and they are a very difficult team to play against," said Olsen, who took Norway to the finals for the first time since 1938.

"And they were far, far better than Nigeria in the second round. There was a very big difference between them."

"They have also had a lot of luck and you need that to reach the final. They had it against us and again today against Spain in the quarterfinal."

"But I have not been im-

pressed by Baggio. He has scored two important goals, but he has missed some good chances. And when he goes one-on-one he does not have the skill to beat the player."

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Spain unable to make a killing stab when needed

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ing all I could do was hit it with my leg," he said.

Luck bypassed the Spaniards again in the final second when forward Luis Enrique Martinez was set to intercept a lobbing pass that could have produced a second equaliser, but he was knocked in the face and grounded by Mauro Tassotti.

"Luis Enrique had his nose broken. I think it should have been a clear penalty but the referee decided to ignore it totally," said Clemente.

Luis Enrique with a plaster covering most of his face was in no mood to talk to reporters.

But if the referee made errors so too did the Spaniards, and none greater than in allowing Baggio's goal.

"In football there's always mistakes. That second goal was genuinely a superb counter-attack which caught us by surprise with only four men in the back," said Clemente.

"I agree it was very lamentable."

"I don't know what went wrong in the midfield, but they told us that Baggio was offside, maybe it was that," said Jose Luis Caminero who scored Spain's only goal in the 59th minute.

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pressed by Baggio. He has scored two important goals, but he has missed some good chances. And when he goes one-on-one he does not have the skill to beat the player."

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G-7 summit shaken by massive soccer roar

NAPLES, Italy (Agencies) — A deafening cheer went up at the Group of Seven summit in Naples when Italy took a 1-0 lead in their World Cup soccer quarterfinal against Spain Saturday.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who was holding a news conference in the ornate Royal Palace summit venue at the time, was momentarily drowned out by the roar.

Whispered consultations with his foreign minister followed and Mr. Mitterrand ventured that Italy might have taken the lead. He offered to cut short his news conference so that reporters could watch the match, saying "I would free you, and me too."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, owner of soccer champions AC Milan, had just ended his news conference with the words "I believe in the new Italian miracle" when player Dino Baggio struck his 26th minute goal.

Informed by a journalist that Italy had scored — as if he couldn't tell from the cheers — the media tycoon flashed an even wider than normal smile and replied: "Miracles are a contagious thing." Italy went on to win the match 2-1.

As Berlusconi rushed off from a news conference at the economic summit, an aide whispered in his ear the

real news of the day: Dino Baggio had scored.

The first day of the summit in the hushed, gilded rooms of the Palazzo Reale was ending. But Naples and the rest of this soccer-obsessed country were in the grip of World Cup fever.

Everywhere Neapolitans huddled around flickering television sets placed inside and outside coffee bars. Several hundred Italian reporters, technicians and government officials crowded around a television, in a press tent in a palace courtyard — even during Mr. Berlusconi's press conference.

Soldiers patrolling cordoned-off streets around the palace shook their fist in triumph when people from windows shouted after Roberto Baggio (Dino's unrelated teammate) scored Italy's second goal. The few official cars allowed honked their horns.

Interest rates, the dollar, economic aid — it all became irrelevant when the Italian team took the field in Foxboro, Mass., against Spain to stay alive in the tournament. Italy's 2-1 victory put it in the semifinals.

After the game, Neapolitans poured into the streets in swirls of motor bikes and cars, waving flags and triumphant fists. But not in their usual places. Streets leading into the central squares are cordoned off for Group of

Seven security. Police there turned back youths on motor bikes. A few fans stood around sheepishly, unsure whether to celebrate.

"We couldn't party like we wanted to," said unemployed Vincenzo Murolo, 26, who stood on a corner of Via Toledo and spoke over the deafening roar of whistles, air horns, car horns and motors.

Soccer here inspires a devoted following bordering on the religious. When Roman Catholic Church figures suggested moving the traditional game day from Sunday to Saturday, league officials scoffed. The Italian League is the world's best, and richest.

"Soccer is in our blood, hot like in America," said Genaro Paduano, 50, is hospital worker. "When we saw the second goal, we all had a heart attack."

Mr. Berlusconi is perhaps Italy's No. 1 fan. He owns AC Milan, last season's European champion and the country's most successful team. Seven of its players man the national squad. When Mr. Berlusconi, a millionaire businessman, entered politics five months ago, he resigned all corporate titles except one: President of AC Milan.

He named his new political party "Forza Italia" (Let's Go, Italy) after a soccer cheer. In Rome, a celebrating resident hung a Forza Italian banner from her clothesline after the game.

Jazireh, Orthodoxi to meet in decisive match

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An interesting and heated match awaits basketball fans Monday when titleholders Al Jazireh meet former champions Al Orthodoxi in the first round final of the Kingdom's women's basketball championship, organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The result of the match will give an early indication of who will get to keep the 1994 women's title in the final match July 17, and both teams demonstrated that they are determined and set to be crowned champions.

Al Orthodoxi's crushing 168-15 win over Abu Nusair — possibly the highest score in the country's women's championship — sent a clear signal to the other camp that they mean business and are ready to take back the title they got used to keeping so often.

However, this result and the titleholder's 93-17 win over Abu Nusair, does not provide a valid chance to evaluate the top two teams.

While Abu Nusair's upbeat attitude and willingness to compete is to be commended, their lack of basic skills, substitutes and experience has proven to be a major obstacle and caused them to suffer one crushing defeat after another.

On the other hand, Al Orthodoxi who only lost the title to Al Jazireh last year, demonstrated that their team will be no easy match and will be playing for the win.

Though missing the efforts of team captain Lara Masri-Al Naber this season, Shireen Abu Khader is back on the team together with Jihan

Abdul Noor, Carol Seikaly, Dima and Ghadah Qandah. Al Orthodoxi expanded their 37-10 lead and ended the first half 86-11.

They played a tight full-court defence, depending on the starting lineup throughout the match. In the second half Abu Nusair could only score 4 points as their opponents took their 136-13 lead to 164-13 before Abu Nusair's Laila Hussein added two points from free throws ending the match 168-15.

Likewise, Al Jazireh led 19-0 and ended the first half 47-14 while giving most bench players a chance to test their skills.

They resorted to a tighter defence in the second half causing Abu Nusair to lose the ball and managed to convert turnovers to easily score by Tala Al Mouje, Rana Hussein, Suhair Makusi and Hala Muhaisen.

Again, Abu Nusair scored only three points from free throws in the second half as the match ended 93-17.

The JBF and its newly formed women's committee had hoped that this year's championship would group the biggest ever number of teams providing a valid chance to regroup the women's national team which last competed in 1983 when women's competitions were put on hold for six years.

Seven teams initially registered to play this season. However, former competitors Al Ahli and Homentmen declined to play, while newcomers Al Watani and Al Husam pulled out before the announcement of the schedule.

Furthermore, one cannot help but notice the lack of interest on the part of offi-

cial and the substandard refereeing in the past two matches.

The off-hand approach of officials and referees to the already inadequate once-a-year competition has given players a feeling that the competition is organised for the sake of having women's championship on the schedule.

While clubs always resented the fact that the schedule of matches is usually crammed while disregarding the alternative of having more rounds to provide more matches, nothing seems to have changed and this year's competition will be over in just 10 days.

Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams — Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, and Homentmen — competed in the championship which was won by Al Orthodoxi.

In 1991, Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforementioned teams.

In the 1992 competition, Al Jazireh clinched third place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxi.

Over the past years, the regrettable state of women's basketball has forced the clubs who maintain women's teams to host foreign teams in order to give players an incentive and keep them busy throughout the season.

Jordan's women's championships commenced their season early this year when they played a series of matches in Aleppo, Syria. They met league leaders Al Horriyeh, runners-up Al Jala' and Al Yarmouk.

Hill wins British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Briton Damon Hill achieved a lifelong ambition when he drove to an exciting but controversial victory in the British Grand Prix.

Hill, driving a Williams, came home 18 seconds clear of world championship leader Michael Schumacher in a Benetton but the German driver's hopes were upset when he was forced to accept a stop-go penalty during the 60-lap race.

Frenchman Jean Alesi was third in a Ferrari, but his bold drive for the Italian team was overshadowed by the extraordinary scenes during the race which had prevented Schumacher challenging for his seventh win in eight races this year.

Hill's victory cuts Schumacher's lead in the World Drivers' Championship to 33 points at the halfway point in the season. But Schumacher's stony face told the story as Hill celebrated by spraying champagne on the podium.

Schumacher, who was penalised for the technicality of passing Hill during the pre-race formation lap was given a five-second stop-go penalty. His team, however, refused to instruct him to come in and he was eventually shown the black flag which, after several further laps, Benetton and Schumacher reluctantly obeyed.

This cost Schumacher his chance and assured Hill of the fifth victory of his career and his first on British soil, making up for his late father Graham's disappointment at never winning his home Grand Prix during an illustrious career which produced two world titles and 14 wins in 176 races.

Bulgaria upset champions Germany, to meet Italy in World Cup semis

NEW YORK (AFP) — Bulgaria damped world champions Germany out of the World Cup with a stunning double strike in the space of two minutes in the last quarter of an hour here Sunday.

It was Germany's first World Cup defeat in 12 games since losing the 1986 final to Argentina.

The Bulgarians, who had never won a World Cup match before coming to America, now face Italy in next Wednesday's semifinals.

And yet they appeared to be on their way home after Lothar Mathaus had converted a 48th minute penalty to put the Germans ahead in his record-equalling 21st World Cup match.

But Hristo Stoichkov's 76th minute free kick and a diving header by Yordan Letchkov completely transformed the match just as the

Germans looked like they would add to their score. Jurgen Kohler, the defender delegated to mark Stoichkov had done a superb job until a quarter of an hour from the end when the Barcelona striker escaped his guard and drew Andreas Moller into a clumsy foul on the edge of the box.

Stoichkov dipped the ball over the German wall to leave Bodo Illgner helpless.

The strike left the Germans dazed and two minutes and 29 seconds later Zlatko Yankov was allowed too much space on the right of the German box.

His cross looked harmless but Letchkov, who had scored the last penalty in the sudden-death shoot-out against Mexico, managed to get across Thomas Helmer to meet it with an unstoppable header.



Germany's Thomas Helmer (R) and Bulgaria's Nasko Sirakov fight for the ball during their World Cup quarterfinal at Giants Stadium (AFP photo)

Mandlikova, Collins enter Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Hana Mandlikova, winner of four Grand Slam singles titles, and Arthur "Bud" Collins, one of America's foremost tennis journalists, were enshrined into the International Tennis Hall of Fame Saturday.

Mandlikova, a native of Czechoslovakia who now is a citizen of Australia, amassed 27 singles titles during her career in the 1960s but is best remembered for winning the Australian Open twice and triumphing at the U.S. and French Opens.

"My only real regret is that I never won Wimbledon," she said, "although the year I won the French (1981) I was

only one victory away from becoming number one in the world."

The 32-year-old Mandlikova conquered Martina Navratilova to earn her last two Grand Slam titles. Her first title win over Navratilova came in 1985 in the U.S. Open, ending the match on her back after an acrobatic volley.

Collins called it "one of the most memorable matches I'd ever seen."

"There I was on my back looking up at heaven and I realised I already was in heaven," quipped Mandlikova.

Collins, whose career as an

international tennis writer has spanned four decades, is the author of four books on the game and has become a popular tennis commentator on television as well.

"How does it feel to be named to the Hall of Fame? I'm like an athlete — I have to let it sink in for a while," said Collins, a long-time columnist for the Boston Globe and contributor to numerous tennis publications.

"But I'm luckier than most of the players that get in here. It's all over for them. I'm still working and doing the same thing."

Enshrinement of Mandlikova and Collins brought the

total number of Hall of Famers to 162 enshrined at the Newport casino, which has been honouring tennis greats since 1954.

Mandlikova said the U.S. Open in New York was always the toughest tournament to play.

"It's the greatest test of endurance, both mentally and physically. And I think most of the players agree," she said.

"But the American fans are the best — they show their emotions. At Wimbledon, the crowd emotion is the same whether you're playing in the first round or the finals."

Rival circuit for Indy cars set to open in '96

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — Indy-car racing's premier event, the Indianapolis 500, will be the cornerstone of a new circuit scheduled to begin in 1996, according to the owner of the speedway here.

Tony George, who lost a battle for power in the Indy-car organisation, plans to start the Indy Racing League in 1996 to challenge the current series, run by car owners.

"This effort is in response to numerous pleas from the various groups within our sport to offer an alternative structure to a car-owner controlled governing body," George said.

The current series was formed in 1979 after team owners became unhappy with the U.S. Auto Club, which seeks to regain the control it

owns only at the Indy 500 by starting the new series.

George resigned from the Indy-car series governing board last year, saying he was unhappy with rising costs and control by car owners, most notably Roger Penske. Penske cars have dominated this year's Indy-car series.

George announced no dates, sponsors or tracks for the remainder of the series, but said several tracks have signed letters of intent to conduct race. Most would be ovals but some would be road courses. George's Indianapolis Motor Speedway Properties would handle marketing and television contracts, he said.

Penske owns the other two largest oval tracks on the Indy-car circuit and is building a third superspeedway in California.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A Q J 9 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Usually we advise our readers not to jump shift unless they know where they want to play the hand. Here's an exception to the rule. South is so strong there's a distinct possibility one spade might get passed. Jump to two spades.

Q.2—East, West, vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—In support of hearts, this hand craves to just enough for a passed-hand jump raise to three hearts. Take away one spade and add a low card in either minor and we would leap to four hearts.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Again, there's a chance a simple one-spade rebid might get passed. Therefore, it might seem that you should jump to two spades. We are of the opinion, though, that a rebid of two on trumps, besides probably playing the contract in the right hand, might be more effective in getting to the correct game.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Your queen of hearts is almost certainly worthless, your doubleton in the enemy suit is the worst possible and nothing much in your hand has been left unbid. In addition, partner might have bid four spades under pressure of the enemy preempt. The wise course is to pass.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?
A.—An ugly hand. You cannot possibly expect partner to be able to balance in fourth seat, yet you have no margin of safety. Still we feel the odds favor getting into the act and a double is clearly the only action worth contemplating. Change a low diamond to a low spade and the double would be clear-cut.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
A.—If you have a bid that shows a two-suited hand including the other major, by all means make it. If not, we would start with an overall of two clubs, intending to bid spades at whatever level is convenient when the auction gets back to us.

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN Cinema and Theatre		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
Michael J. Fox James Woods in The Hard Way Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in Unveiling The Secrets Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Silence of Lambs Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' PERFECT WORLD Shows: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 CURLY SUE Shows: 12:30, 6:15		INDECENT PROPOSAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days.	

Palestinian prison death shocks rights groups

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The death of a Palestinian, the first apparently from violence while being held in prison in the self-rule area, has shocked Palestinian long used to accusing the former Israeli occupiers of torture and violence.

Human rights groups, alerted to the death of suspect Farid Jarbou'a in Gaza central prison, with clear signs of violence on his corpse, are demanding more accountability from the newly-created Palestinian police.

Freih Abu Medein, responsible for the justice portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said on Sunday three policemen were suspended from duty and under interrogation over the death of Jarbou'a.

Palestinians took over Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May under a self-rule deal with Israel.

Through 27 years of occupation, they joined the United Nations and human rights groups in assailing Israel for torturing prisoners.

"People are shocked by what is happening. There is no comparison with the Israelis in the scale but the fact that it is coming from Palestinians is very depressing," said Youssef Haddad, a Gaza human rights activist.

Jarbou'a, a 28-year-old taxi driver, was detained by Palestinian police more than two weeks ago for allegedly collaborating with Israel. The next thing his family knew, police told them last Wednesday to collect his body.

Hanan Ashrawi, commissioner-general of the Palestinian Independent Committee for Citizens Rights, said her group was asking the authority to publish full names of those detained in its prisons to prevent further abuses.

"This is a very serious case and has created a lot of alarm, but we were pleased with the way it was dealt with... there was a thorough investigation and there was no cover-up," the former

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman told Reuters.

"These people disobeyed instructions not to use violence and they will be brought to trial for it," she added.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch wrote to the minister of justice in the new Palestinian authority "to express its concern about the death in detention" of Jarbou'a.

It said it was "disturbed to learn... Jarbou'a's death had been caused by the use of violence, according to the autopsy."

Human Rights Watch condemned torture and ill-treatment, adding: "At this early stage of Palestinian self-rule the authorities must send clear signals that such basic violations of human rights will not be tolerated."

It called for punishment of those responsible and publication of the investigation. The Palestinian human rights group Al Haq also urged an immediate investigation and complained to the Palestinian authority.

Al Haq, which is based in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, said that Jarbou'a's arrest at the end of June, "resembled a forced kidnapping more than a lawful arrest."

"The deceased was held for 12 days in Gaza central prison without charge, without access to counsel and without the opportunity to meet members of his family."

"This is precisely the kind of measure that human rights organisations and Palestinian lawyers have protested throughout the years of Israeli occupation."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered a probe, according to his spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

Mr. Kanafani said that those responsible would be "punished in a manner showing the determination of the Palestinian president to uphold the dignity of the citizen and his humanitarian and political rights."

The Gaza Centre for

Rights and Law called Saturday for prisoners' rights to be respected.

"It is intolerable that what happened during the Israeli occupation should repeat itself under Palestinian authority," it said.

A Gaza Court on Saturday remanded the three officers in custody for further questioning.

Mr. Abu Medein told Reuters two weeks ago 16 suspected collaborators were being held. On Sunday he declined to specify the number.

Another independent human rights group, Solidarity International, said it had evidence other prisoners had been tortured to extract confessions and that a climate of fear was beginning to spread over the Gaza Strip.

"It is not enough just to investigate this case. We are sure this is happening in other cases too but people are afraid to talk," said lawyer Haddad, head of the Gaza group.

He said Jarbou'a's brother told him the body bore obvious marks of torture, there were burn marks under the armpits, a huge gash on the face and weal marks on the back.

Mr. Haddad said the brother of another Palestinian detainee, Ayman Sheikh Al Zeid, had been taken by police and told to persuade his brother to confess to collaborating. A lawyer, Jibril Abu Daqqa, was badly beaten by police when he came to ask for a suspect to be released on bail.

Another man who asked not to be identified was released without being charged, on condition he did not tell anyone about being beaten.

The issue of collaborators is emotional for Palestinians. The self-rule authority insists it has the right to execute those convicted of it but Israel is linking their fate with Palestinians still held in Israeli jails for activities during the uprising.

Clinton, Yeltsin to meet in U.S.

NAPLES (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to visit Washington in September for a summit meeting with his U.S. counterpart, U.S. President Bill Clinton said here Sunday.

Mr. Yeltsin's official visit will take place on Sept. 27 and 28, Mr. Clinton said at a press conference here after 90 minutes of talks between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G-7 summit.

Mr. Yeltsin earlier Sunday participated in the G-7 political summit here, becoming the first Russian leader to do so.

But he stressed he did not expect his country to join the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries until its economy had improved and fallen in line with other major powers.

Mr. Yeltsin made a spirited pitch on Sunday to the United States and its allies to knock down their remaining cold war barriers to trade with Moscow, and received a favourable American response.

"We're saying give us equal rights. Get rid final-



Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures as he talks to U.S. President Bill Clinton during the summit in Naples (AFP photo)

ly, once and for all, of this red jacket," Mr. Yeltsin said, apparently referring to the communist symbol of the former Soviet Union.

"For three years I've taken that red besmirched jacket off of myself,"

Flanked by U.S. President Clinton at a news conference following their bilateral meeting, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia was not asking the West for any hand-outs.

"This time... Russia did

not ask for money," Mr. Yeltsin said. "We're not asking for any special circumstances."

U.S. officials held out the promise of various trade benefits and extra assistance for Russia, including a \$9 billion oil and gas deal in north Siberia and as much as \$9 billion more in loans from the International Monetary Fund.

Before his meeting with

Mr. Clinton, the Russian leader took part for the first time as a full member in the political discussions of the Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Mr. Yeltsin said he had been promised by Mr. Clinton that the United States would do away with remaining Cocon limitations on trade with Russia by the time of their meeting in Washington.

Arafat ends S. Arabia visit, arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stopped in Cairo airport Sunday on his way back to Tunis from Saudi Arabia to prepare for a final farewell before returning for good to Gaza and Jericho on Monday.

Mr. Arafat was greeted at the airport by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning Kamal Al Ganzuri. President Hosni Mubarak and other senior-level officials had left Cairo earlier for a trip to Europe.

Mr. Arafat had just completed a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia where he held talks with King Fahd, Defence Minister Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Details of the meeting were not revealed, but sources said Mr. Arafat thanked the king for his support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Saudi Arabia supported the self-rule deal, and has pledged \$100 million to help launch Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Arafat, described by the Saudi News Agency SPA as "His Excellency the president of the State of Palestine," was accompanied by the PLO's chief autonomy negotiator Nabil Shaath and Yasser Abed Rabbo, who like Dr. Shaath has been nominated to the new Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Arafat also performed a minor pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina during his trip. In January Mr. Arafat paid his first visit to Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf war, patching up relations which were soured by the PLO's allegedly pro-Iraqi stance in the conflict.

Saudi Arabia suspended annual aid worth \$85.5 million to the PLO after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In Tunis, Mr. Arafat will attend a farewell dinner Monday hosted by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, marking the end of his 12-year exile in the country.

A first ceremony will be presided over Monday morning by President Ben Ali at the palace in Carthage, in a northern suburb of Tunis, a spokesman said.

The two men will exchange decorations and speeches in a ceremony before invited journalists.

Then a second ceremony will be held at Tunis-Carthage airport in the afternoon where the president will say goodbye to Mr. Arafat at which military honours will be awarded witnessed by diplomats, the spokesman said.

The ceremonies will show the "special place the Palestinian cause holds for the president and in the hearts of all Tunisians," the spokesman said.

They will also demonstrate the concrete "ties of brotherhood and struggle which unite the two peoples, Tunisian and Palestinian."

Gangs go on rampage in Aden

ADEN (AFP) — Unidentified armed gangs have gone on an organised rampage in the southern Yemeni city of Aden after its capture by northern troops.

Wreckers have descended on almost all private and public offices in turn, staggering away with numerous files, especially from the labour ministry.

The looting has been so widespread that it really amounts to a sacking of Aden, where no commercial or administrative activity has been spared, a witness in the port city said.

The wrecking spree increased over the weekend despite a warning from the interior ministry in Sanaa and numerous military checkpoints on roads around the city.

The southern Yemeni television station has been ransacked, and equipment and ambulances have been stolen from hospitals.

Only the city's two main

hospitals, visited regularly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have been spared by the gangs.

The government's offices and the homes of former southern leaders have been stripped bare, including the seaside residence of break-away leader Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Mr. Beidh left Aden for the eastern port of Mukalla soon after the civil war erupted on May 5, and fled to Oman when Mukalla was captured last week, days before Aden fell to northern forces on Thursday.

A witness said northern troops took part in some of the looting and "liberally helped themselves."

"It feels like the town has gone back in time 50 years, the damage is so huge," the witness added.

Capuchin monks in Dubai said Sunday they had received a call from their mission in Aden, telling them "the whole town has been sacked."

"No institution has been

omitted, except the cathedral and a hospice sheltering lepers and orphans which have been spared bombs and looting," the monks said.

An aid worker told AFP: "The sacking of the city may also be explained by the fact that the new authorities are not really established yet, and are still a long way from controlling the situation."

Meanwhile, Aden's 500,000 residents continued to suffer from desperate water shortages, despite ICRC tanker trucks bringing in supplies.

Aden has been without running water supplies since a vital pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres to the north, was destroyed two weeks ago in fighting.

The ICRC worker said repairs to the pumping station would take "a minimum of four weeks."

Elsewhere, Sanaa said Sunday its troops had seized control of Sayyun, the second largest town in the Hadramawt province, 180 kilometres north of the principal city Mukalla.

Sifi hints at talks with FIS

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi raised Sunday the prospect of negotiations with Islamic fundamentalists, warning that election offered the only way out of the country's violent political crisis.

Questioned on possible participation of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in talks between government and opposition forces, Mr. Sifi told the independent daily Al Watan that the best way out of the crisis was "to bring together all forces which represent something in the country."

But only factions "who are not behind the violence and who denounce it and pledge to work towards a swift return to stability" would be eligible to participate, he added.

"Those who were or have been behind the violence and those who have not denounced it or still do not do so exclude themselves from dialogue."

In reference to the possible freeing of jailed FIS leaders, Mr. Sifi stressed that "the constitution confers on the president the prerogative of releasing any prisoners jailed

for whatever reason."

Five FIS leaders, including its President Abassi Madani and Vice President Ali Belhadj, are since 1991 serving sentences of between four and 12 years.

Separately, Mr. Sifi said legislative elections might be held prior to the start of 1997, the date envisaged under Algeria's current transition to full civilian rule, if "preconditions covering political and economic stability are in place."

In such a case, early elections would be "wonderful, because the objective of our (administration of) transition is stability, not the length of time we have to spend reaching that position."

Islamic fundamentalists launched an insurgency against Algeria's secular authorities in January 1992 after the cancellation of the second round of election the then-legal FIS was poised to win.

Speaking in Naples, Italy, on Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton said the situation in the country would be raised at the Naples summit this weekend of G-7 leaders. He spoke two days after seven Italian sailors were killed in the Algerian port of

Djendjen by suspected fundamentalists as part of a splinter campaign to force foreigners to leave the country.

In Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Pope John Paul Sunday called the killings of seven Italian seamen by suspected Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria abominable and said people who believe in God could not have such contempt for life.

He told pilgrims and tourists at his summer residence south of Rome that he felt "disdain and pain" over the killings.

The seven had their throats slit while sleeping on their ship in the port of Djendjen last week. It was the second-worst single killing of foreigners since fighting erupted in 1992 between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces.

"Faced with such abominable incidents, I would like to remind everyone that violence cannot resolve the problems of humanity," the Pope said.

"One must have the courage for dialogue, especially when faith in God calls for a greater respect for life," he said.

Column

Mandela to have eye surgery

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela will be admitted to hospital for an eye operation this week, the Sunday Times newspaper reported. The paper quoted Mr. Mandela's personal secretary Mary Mkhadana as saying Mr. Mandela had problems with his eyes and would go to hospital Wednesday for a cataract surgery. Mr. Mandela, who won South Africa's all-race elections in April, missed a function to officially open the country's first black-owned brewery Saturday, and Ms. Mkhadana told the newspaper he had been told to rest in preparation for the operation. She said his left eye was red and sensitive to light. "The president would have been expected to read for longer than five minutes at the function and his eyes become red if he has to read for long spells," she was quoted as saying. She said Mr. Mandela had a prostate operation and was also successfully treated for tuberculosis in the 1980s.

Church apologises to Australian aborigines

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's aboriginal people received a public apology from a major Christian church here Sunday over their past ill-treatment by Christian churches. A statement signed by delegates to the seventh national assembly of the Uniting Church also sought the forgiveness of Aborigines for wrongs done to them, asked their help in finding new ways to make amends and expressed solidarity with them. The statement was a reflection of the conviction of the church and much of Australia's white society that it has left the remnants of aboriginal society impoverished after two centuries of ill-treatment and neglect. Canberra acknowledged this in recent legislation granting land rights to indigenous people and overturning the legal principle that Australia was "terra nullius" or unoccupied land at the time of British settlement in 1788. The church statement followed an unsuccessful attempt to defer its signing for another three years by some delegates who proposed an amendment arguing the church was not ready to vote on it. Minister Denis Towner said: "I speak as a gubba (white person) who went to school with Kooris (Aborigines). Why do we gubbas take so long to work out the words we use to say 'sorry'?"

Meanwhile in Canberra, aboriginal leader Charles Perkins launched Sunday a national discussion paper on social justice for aborigines. Mr. Perkins, who chairs a government-funded social justice committee, said that development of a comprehensive package enshrining the rights of indigenous Australians was probably the most important issue facing them over the rest of the decade.

More crack babies born in Britain

LONDON (R) — British doctors are seeing an increasing number of "crack babies" who are born addicted to the cocaine derivative. "The problem has exploded in the past six months and it's getting worse," Peter Fleming, professor of child health at Bristol University in western England, told the Sunday Times. The newspaper said more than 160 "crack babies" had been born last year and doctors feared that many more, undiagnosed cases were leaving hospitals because staff do not recognise the signs of an infant suffering from withdrawal. "One inner London hospital which carried out the first drug-screening project on babies, believes that up to 15 per cent of its mothers are using crack and other hard drugs," the Sunday Times said. The addicted babies sometimes show tell-tale convulsions and jitters and are born underweight and need detoxification treatment. When mothers smoke the highly addictive crack the oxygen supplies to the foetus drop, permanently damaging blood vessels in the brain and causing developmental and learning problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin defends PLO against Likud 'lies'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin defended the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sunday accusing the right-wing opposition Likud Party of telling lies about the organisation. "Likud is telling huge lies by saying that the PLO is continuing its terrorist activities," he said during a Labour Party meeting in Tel Aviv. "The terrorism is almost entirely due to the Muslim extremists from (the Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas or the Islamic Jihad and is aimed at the peace process," he said. He was speaking after a spate of violence ended weeks of calm following the Israeli army's redeployment under the May 4 autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israel names new Nablus mayor and councillors

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli military authorities appointed Sunday a new mayor and 15 councillors for the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, an army spokeswoman said. Ghassan Al Shakra, a lawyer and supporter of Yasser Arafat's Fateh, was named mayor to head the new council. "Arafat appointed him a couple of weeks ago to try and form a council to run affairs until elections," military administration spokeswoman Major Elise Shazar told AFP. "We have now approved Shakra and his list of 15 councillors," she added. The appointment followed Israel's approval of a new mayor for Hebron in the aftermath of the February 25 mosque massacre. The council will remain in charge at least until the Palestinians hold elections to an autonomy council, which are now scheduled to be held in October. Municipal elections would be expected to follow that.

Ex-prisoner says Iran tortures children

BONN (R) — A German engineer freed by Iran last week after being sentenced to death and pardoned has said children were tortured in an Iranian jail to extract confessions from their parents. Helmut Szimkus told the news magazine Focus he had witnessed several cases during five and half years in prison where Iranian children were tortured in the presence of their parents. "One time these guys (the torturers) said in an interview released ahead of publication on Monday, 'The father shook and rattled so badly that he could no longer sign the espionage confession they put before him. Once they took on a boy. Do you know how an innocent child screams when it is tortured? His parents were right there in the next cell, it drove them up the wall,'" Mr. Szimkus said. Mr. Szimkus, who returned to Germany on July 2, said he had confessed to spying for Iraq after torturers beat the soles of his feet raw with a copper cable and then threatened to beat him near the kidneys, shoot him and let him bleed to death slowly.

Iran to return bodies of pastors to families

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iran said Sunday that the bodies of two evangelical Protestant clergymen found killed in recent weeks will be returned to their families after post-mortem investigations are completed. International evangelical groups have blamed the slayings of the Rev. Tateos Michaelian and Bishop Mehdi Dehaj on the government and say they are evidence of Iran's stepped-up persecution of its Christian minorities. Iran maintains the killings are the work of an opposition group and have apprehended a suspect who allegedly belongs to the Iraq-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq. The Mujahedeen deny any involvement. The head of the coroner's office in Tehran, Hassan Towfigi, told the Islamic Republic News Agency that the bodies would be handed over to the bereaved on condition they show "valid documents proving their relationship with the two pastors." On Saturday, a Paris-based opposition group said the relatives of Dehaj and Michaelian have been arrested to conceal official complicity in the killings.

Police officer shot dead in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected extremists gunned down a police officer while he was visiting his family in southern Egypt, security officials said Sunday. The victim was identified as Major Adel Antar Abdul Hafez, who had been posted near Cairo. The security officials, who insisted on anonymity, said three gunmen opened fire on Abdul Hafez Saturday night as he sat outside his home in Sahrij village near Mansafout, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but many police have been killed in southern Egypt by members of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

Iran to defend Gulf Islands like 'capital'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran will defend "like the capital" three disputed strategic islands in the Gulf which are claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a senior Iranian official said here Sunday. Deputy Parliament Speaker Hassan Ruhani said the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb had "always belonged to Iran" and the country would "spare no effort" to keep them. "Iran will cut the hand of anyone who tries to invade the islands," which lie close to the vital Straits of Hormuz, he said. He is also secretary of the National Security Council, the highest decision-making body in the country. He said Iran had "always exercised sovereignty over the islands, even during 70 years of British occupation."

Sudanese to help Yemen republic

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan will donate funds and send engineers to help rebuild Yemen after a two-month civil war, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported on Sunday. Trade union and government officials met on Saturday and agreed to send immediately a team of electrical and water engineers to help rebuild infrastructure in the southern Yemeni city of Aden. Northern forces shelled Aden during the war which began on May 4 and seized the southern secessionist stronghold on Thursday. The minister of state for labour and administrative reform, Majdout Al Khalifa, who chaired Saturday's meeting, said employees in the public and private sectors would donate two days salary to Yemen. The Sudanese businessmen's union and the bank's union will each donate 50 million Sudanese pounds (\$156,000) to Yemen.

'Iraqi army in new offensive'

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iraqi army launched a new offensive two weeks ago against Shiite Muslims living in the country's southern marshlands, the Iraqi opposition said Sunday. The Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement that the army had burned villages and tracked down residents in the region of Nasseriah. It did not say whether there were any casualties. Baghdad crushed a Shiite revolt following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war in February 1991 when Iraqi forces were ousted from Kuwait by a U.S.-led coalition following a seven-month occupation. SCIRI charged in March that the Iraqi army was carrying out a huge offensive in the region, using chemical weapons on the Shiite population.

Iran says it is only independent state

NICOSIA (R) — Iran believes it is the world's only independent state. "The Islamic republic is the world's only country that is truly independent of foreign powers," the official news agency IRNA quoted Majlis (parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri as saying on Saturday. "The government of the Islamic republic relies first on Almighty Allah and next on the support it receives from the masses," he was quoted as telling the people of Bahar near the western Iranian city of Hamedan.

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